

November 2023

Volume 33, Issue 11

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## Our Traditional Cornucopia

Our traditional cornucopia will adorn the chancel area in front of the pulpit on November 12 and 19. 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 9. (Food items are given to our Food Pantry).



## Greening of the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 3 – the first Sunday of Advent – Trinity will have a Greening Service immediately following the 10:30 worship service. Please join us as we finish decorating the sanctuary, sing some carols, & explore the meaning behind many of our Christmas decorating traditions. There will be a special tree for the children & youth to decorate with the Chrismons that they are preparing in their church school classes. We hope you will join us in this fun and meaningful event as we begin our celebration of Advent!

## Advent Mini Concerts are coming...

Trinity's Advent mini-concerts begin December 10 and will occur immediately following the worship service in our Sanctuary. The programs last approximately 20 minutes & you may watch IN PERSON or ONLINE.

December 10 – "A Jazzy Holiday" – the Trinity Jazz Ensemble  
December 17 – "Instrumental Joy" – a string quartet led by Ellen Ensey, violinist

# 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 to 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 oneself 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!

*Dr. Mack*



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## YOUTH CLASSES

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

*Teacher: Kathy Moser*

OLD TESTAMENT HERO-DAVID, THANKSGIVING AND CHRISMON ORNAMENTS

We will be having in-person Sunday School downstairs in Room 8 following the children's message. We will celebrate and learn about David through Bible stories, sticker books, music, matching games, puzzles, and other activities. We will also have a Thanksgiving lesson and decorate Chrismon ornaments.

which the children will place on the Children's Christmas tree during the  
Greening service Sunday, December 3.

### CRUSADERS & FAITH ENCOUNTERS (3rd grade & older)

*Teacher: Debbie Hobbs & Bonnie Stull*

Crusaders (3rd, 4th and 5th graders) Each week we will link our class lessons, activities and songs to the scriptures read in worship. By connecting lessons with the Children's message and scriptures from worship, this will enable families to share insights and reflect upon a common Biblical theme each week.

Faith Encounters (grades 6 and older) This group will be encouraged to bring their faith questions as we "dissect and discuss" the scripture passages and sermon topics presented in worship for that day.

Nov. 4 – Sermon – "Love & Remembrance", OT – Psalm 51: 10-17, NT – Mark 14: 22-25

Nov. 12 – Sermon – "An Artificial Faith", OT – Psalm 26, NT – Acts 8: 9-13, 18-24

Nov. 19– Sermon – "What's Your Answer?", OT – Isaiah 58: 5-9, NT – Luke 20: 1-8

Nov. 26 – "Homecoming", OT – Psalm 100, NT – John 14: 15-24

Both classes are led by Debbie Hobbs and Bonnie Stull and meet downstairs in Room 1.

### COLLEGE AGE STUDENTS

Join in the fellowship with Presbyterian Campus Ministry for a meeting, Bible study & dinner

Wednesdays at 6:00 pm at Our Savior Lutheran Church (Campbell north of Speedway).

For more information, check the website [pcmarizona.org](http://pcmarizona.org) or contact them at [pastor.lcmuofa@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.lcmuofa@gmail.com)

## ADULT CLASSES

### MACK'S ADVENT CLASS "AN UNLIKELY ADVENT"

Mack's Advent Study begins December 3 from 9:00 am to 9:45 am in the Chapel. "An Unlikely Advent." Presented by Pastor Rachel Billups, "guides readers through the themes of hope, love, joy and peace by sharing the stories of Elizabeth and Zechariah, Herod, the magi and the shepherds". The class includes a video and a booklet which can either be downloaded or purchased. We have purchased 5 books to have available for the class at \$14.00 each. You may also purchase the book yourself at <https://www.cokesbury.com/an-unlikely-advent-study?pagenumber=1> or Amazon for the book or Kindle version <https://a.co/d/ddeTJir>. Rachel Billups provides an introductory video on You Tube at <https://youtu.be/XSitzUBeeYY>. The class will meet four Sundays.

# WORSHIP

## 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 services or leave them to be distributed by the Deacons. Order yours using the enclosed order form.

**The Trinity Ringers** handbell choir meets Thursday evenings from 5:30 to 6:30 in the upstairs bell room. New members are always welcome! Please speak with Lynn Moser to join.

**The Trinity Choir** meets Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. ALL are welcome and encouraged to join the choir for weekly anthems & a brand new Advent cantata with orchestra in December! On the advice of the Worship Restoration Committee, all members are expected to be vaccinated and boosted.

## CONGREGATIONAL NEWS



### WHO'S IN YOUR VIRTUAL PEW Meet Bobby Whipple

**What did you do for a living?** *I am retired and did Title Insurance when I worked.*

**Where is your hometown?** *Tucson (born in Keams Canyon, AZ)*

**What do you like to do with your leisure time?** *Hike, yoga, travel*

**What is your favorite food?** *Mexican*

**What is your favorite hymn or Bible verse?** *"For My thoughts are not your thoughts; nor are your ways My ways." Isaiah 55:8 (this changes regularly, depending upon what's going on)*

**What does this church mean to you?** *Place to learn and serve*

**What is something that many people would not know about you?** *I spent my childhood on the Hopi and Tohono O'odham reservations*

### 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.



**Organist Showcase Concert**  
**Sunday, November 12, 4 p.m.**  
**Christ Church United Methodist**  
**655 N Craycroft Rd.**  
Donations accepted.

The Southern Arizona Chapter of the American Guild of Organists invites everyone to this annual event featuring Janet Tolman, Lynn Moser, Carolyn Smith, Chris Fresolone, & the duo, Yvonne and Bill Kuhlman. They perform on the church's iconic Schlicker pipe organ—41 ranks, 4 divisions, 3 manuals and pedal. There is a reception following the concert hosted by the SAAGO.

Think about giving some delicious Just Coffee for your holiday gifts! The varieties available (Arabica, Decaf, 50%/50% & Robusto-Arabica) and the freshness of their coffee, whether ground or whole bean will be appreciated. The Mission Committee thanks all of you for supporting the Just Coffee (Coffee with a Conscience) project. Eileen Lamse

# 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 & monetary donations. Vouchers for duplicate Arizona ID cards are given out when the Food Pantry is open.

Casa Maria sandwich making will be **Sunday, November 12** in Fellowship Hall after worship. It is a lot of work to set this up and clean up afterwards. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex for those to help with that. Any questions please see Billie Holbrook.

# CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



## QUILT RAFFLE TICKETS

\$1 EACH OR 6 FOR \$5

SEE RUTH MYERS

### *the History of the Quilts*

Libby Huffman, long time member (d.1991) embroidered 30 blocks but never made them into a quilt. She gave them to Mary Wong, longtime member, quilter extraordinaire (d.2023) who never made them into a quilt either. She gave them to Ruth Myers along with a box of quilting fabric. The blocks were divided into three groups and sewed into three quilt tops using Mary's fabrics by Bonnie Stull. Ruth finished the quilts with machine quilting. Each quilt is 46 inches square and will be raffled off with a coordinated square pillow.

## DRAWING

NOVEMBER 19, 2023

PROCEEDS BENEFIT TRINITY'S FOOD PANTRY

## NOVEMBER IS A MONTH OF GIVING AND SHARING

All proceeds from these sales will go to purchase grocery gift cards that can be handed out at the Trinity Food Bank.



Window Cling

[www.trinitytucson.org](http://www.trinitytucson.org)

\$5



Show off the beautiful Trinity tile artwork on a T-shirt available in sizes M, L, XL, 2XL or a 17x15" Cotton Tote bag,

\$20



"He Brews 11" Coffee Mugs

Join in the coffee fellowship with your very own mug.

\$8

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

**November 5** Micah 3:5-12 & Psalm 43; 1 Thess. 2:9-13; Matt. 23:1-12

**November 12** Amos 5:18-24 & Psalm 70; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Matt. 25:1-13

**November 19** Zeph. 1:7, 12-18 & Psalm 90:1-8 (9-11), 12; 1 Thess. 5:1-11; Matt. 25:14-30

**November 26** Ezek. 34:11-16, 20-24 & Psalm 95:1-7; Eph. 1:15-23; Matt. 25:31-46





# SESSION NOTES

Good news! Let's all welcome Karen James as a new Trinity member. At the October stated meeting Session approved that Karen join our Trinity family by Reaffirmation of Faith. Please give her a warm welcome. Many of us already know her from her activities at Trinity and by her regular attendance. Her pre-pandemic Compañera was Holly Clark and her post-pandemic Compañera was Billie Holbrook. We are so glad to have a new member on our rolls! Other Session business follows:

- The Deacons announced that a baby shower will be planned for all of us to welcome Sanani's and Felix's new son, Aziel.
- Session approved allowing Trinity Presbyterian Women to sell raffle tickets for three quilts that have a rich heritage at Trinity. Two long-time members, now saints, Libby Huffman and Mary Wong began the quilts. They have been finished by Ruth Myers and Bonnie Stull. Proceeds from the raffle ticket sales will benefit Trinity's Food Bank site during the holidays ahead.
- Growth & Outreach Team plans to sell Trinity swag in November to augment holiday items for our Food Bank patrons.
- Administration & Personnel Committee will be working with Mission Committee to write a new position description for Mission Facilitator after the tragic death of DeDe Markin.
- Everyone is missing DeDe. But people are stepping up to fill a giant void. Volunteers at the Food Bank are carrying on the work. Janet Munson will bring treats for fellowship time in Fellowship Hall before worship. Sheila Croteau will print ID vouchers to be handed out at the Food Bank while the DES work will be handed off to another party. Drivers are helping pick up food for the Food Bank and Peter Holbrook has ac-

quired a food handler certificate. Still, there will be things we will all miss such as the decorating and the cakes!

- Stewardship & Finance Committee will launch a 2024 Commitment campaign in November.
- Session approved Stewardship & Finance Committee's motion to approve making available \$6,500 from the Capital Maintenance Reserve Fund to bring in several different organ-building companies to assess repair or replacement options for our old and ailing organ. Lynn Moser has been in close conversations with these companies after lots of research.
- Property Committee reports that work on the Trinity Hall air handler is ongoing.
- Property Committee plans to meet with Bruce Chamberlain and Lynn Moser to discuss the work of improving the lighting in the Chancel area before any changes are made.

Session and Dr. Mack prayed for DeDe's grieving family, for Rose Emery in rehab, for Anne McConnell in the hospital, for the Middle East, for earthquake victims and we gave thanks for the Rev. Brad Munroe's sermon on October 15<sup>th</sup> with the message that absolutely nothing can separate us from God's love.

Janet Hooper, Clerk of Session



## MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- Food Pantry
- Casa Maria Sandwiches setup/cleanup



**Picnic**

## ALL CHURCH PICNIC

**Saturday, November 4 11:00 am ~ 1:30 pm**

**REID PARK, RAMADA 7**

The Deacons will provide baked chicken, potato salad & beverages

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share!



**Picnic**

**Everyone is invited!!!!** Don't miss the FUN! We look forward to seeing you at the park!

# TRINITY MILESTONES



## HONORING & MEMORIALS

*In Memory of Leone Mohney by Tom & Wade Henderson*

*In Memory of Leone Mohney by James Stevenson*

*In Memory of DeDe Markin by Bonnie Stull*

*In Memory of DeDe Markin by Roberta Westergaard*

*In Memory of DeDe Markin by Don & Ruth Myers*

*In Memory of DeDe Markin by Tom & Wade Henderson*

*In Memory of Leone Mohney by Duncan MacDonell & Carrie Jasso*

*In Honor of Peace Alley Ossajin Dolt by the Alley family & friends*



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 LaRue Woslum	15 Catherine Dimenstein
3 Greg Keidel	16 Tony Miranda
4 Gerry Pearson	18 Sheila Croteau
5 Lily Chacon	24 David Maycher
10 Cameron Toering	26 Brooke Miller
10 Christine Toering	

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS (1-10)

2 Ida Wickizer	6 Elliott Koeppen - 94
4 Melinda Arnold	7 Marilyn Slagle
5 Errol Dimenstein	9 Bonnie Stull

## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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

# TRINITY WOMEN



Ryan's Bears



Ryan's Bears



**The Horizon's Bible Study** Dr. Mack leads a new study "*Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke - Acts*" by Olive Mahabir. The group meets in person in **the Library Tuesday, November 14 at 10:00 am and everyone is welcome.**

**Ryan's Bears** will meet **Tuesday November 14 at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall** to stuff more bears. This month bears that are not finished will be completed and a pink ribbon put around their neck. A tag will be added saying the bears are made with love by Trinity Presbyterian Women. In December the bears will be blessed & distributed to Arizona Children's Association, Primavera, Our Family Social Services and Gospel Rescue Mission. All are agencies that serve families with children. Any help with the bears is appreciated.



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- ⇒ 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  
400 E. University Blvd.  
Tucson, AZ 85705

520-623-2579  
Office 10:00 am-3:00 pm Monday-Thursday

Trinity Website  
[www.trinitytucson.org](http://www.trinitytucson.org)

Email Addresses  
[office@trinitytucson.org](mailto:office@trinitytucson.org)

Deadline for the December 2023  
VISION is

Monday, November 20, 2023

Please submit articles to the church  
office or to [office@trinitytucson.org](mailto:office@trinitytucson.org)

