

THE *talking trinity*



**a word from
Pastor Mere**

The other day, after what felt like my millionth-ZOOM call of the month, I reflected on how much my life, and Trinity's life has changed since the beginning of March. In the course of some of the conversations I have had with church leaders and members, I realized that while we talk about the changing face of Trinity's ministry, I have not shared with the wider community how much **my** job has shifted. Below are some common questions that come up when I check in with church members. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have your own questions or want to know more about how church leadership has adapted to our new reality.

How has your job changed during this pandemic?

Everything about being a pastor has fundamentally changed these last few months. It is not an exaggeration to say it feels like I am re-learning my job all over again! Overnight, we had to shift from an in-person church to a digital church. I consider myself a pretty tech-savvy person but I have had to learn how to record, edit, and upload worship videos. The recording session itself is a fairly straightforward process, but the editing can easily take hours. It's a labor of love for myself and our volunteers, but it is definitely a steep learning curve!

The other most visible part of my job that has changed has been the inability to meet in-person with church members. This is the part I mourn the most. I miss seeing your faces and I grieve the loss of your hugs and handshakes. It is a surreal feeling to film worship in an almost-empty sanctuary. I thank God for the miracle of ZOOM and technologies that allow us to connect, but it is not the same.

Since the church office is closed to visitors, how can we get a hold of you?

I have been coming into the office regularly to get work done and to meet with staff. However, for the time being, it is safest for me to meet with church members either by phone or ZOOM. For the health of office staff, we must limit the people who enter the church office. I am still very eager to provide pastoral care. I know sometimes people feel hesitant to call my cell phone, but please know that it is ok! If I am in the middle of a meeting, or am unable to get to my phone, the call will go to voicemail. If you leave a message (detailed is even better), I will listen to it and respond when first available. If you call at night, I will generally respond in the morning, except for the cases of pastoral emergencies.

Email is always good, but sometimes emails get lost in the fray. It is ok to ask "did you see my email?" and I am thankful for reminders.

Texting is great, too! As is Facebook Messenger. I'm not on Snapchat or TikTok yet (ask your local teenager what those things are).

How has this pandemic affected your family?

Thank you for asking! As a parent of young children, the pandemic has tested my patience, and also shown me how resilient children can be. I am thankful to God for their smiles and hugs (sometimes less thankful for their boundless energy). We have a four-year-old who has been able to remain in daycare. The six year old has had to adjust to the disruption of a school and summer schedule. He has some activities during the week and Ryan (my spouse) has rearranged his work schedule to adapt to our new normal. This means there are dedicated times in the week when I can give my uninterrupted attention on my work at and for Trinity. It also means that I need to work from home more. You might notice children and pets in the background of my ZOOM calls, and more often than not, I have a child or critter playing under the computer desk.

What can we do to be supportive?

Prayers are always appreciated, pandemic or no. I have never pastored during a pandemic and the nature of the virus means that plans change on a daily basis. Also, grace is needed. Juggling church, family, and personal demands has always been a delicate dance. With so many normal activities on hiatus, this has been a difficult season for my family, just as I know it has been for yours. We are hanging in there, but there are days when I know that I have fallen short of the glory of God.

This August marks my 3-year anniversary of being pastor of Trinity. I was looking through old pictures of our first weeks here in Topeka, and I marvel at how well our family has settled in here. Being your pastor is a joy and blessing and if anything, this pandemic has shown me how the Spirit has truly called us together to minister in this time and place. I love you dearly.

**Grace and peace,
Rev. Meredith**

HAPPY retirement

After nearly 16 and a half years of faithful service, our organist, Sheryl Daniels, has announced her retirement effective July 31st.



Sheryl has provided excellence in worship musicianship during her time here. She has played for countless funerals and other occasions in the life of our church.

Sheryl is also a good friend and person of deep abiding faith. Please join me in wishing Sheryl a fond farewell and blessings in her retirement!

To celebrate Sheryl, the Personnel Committee is holding a Card Shower. **Please mail retirement cards to the CHURCH.**

We want to compile all the cards and give them to Sheryl at one time.

The deadline for cards is **August 14th.**

Rev. Meredith Kemp-Pappan

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Adult Education

SUMMER ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL ZOOM—EVERY SUNDAY AT 9:30 A.M.



Carol Thomas is the Zoom host and will start letting people in at 9:15 Sunday mornings.

9:20- share joys and concerns

9:30- lift up our joys and concerns in prayer

9:35- class begins

Summer Sunday school is a discussion using the lectionary that Pastor Mere will be using in worship. Carol Shannahan will facilitate the class. Scripture is sent out a day or two before class for those who would like to be ahead of the game.



Page Turners Book Study

Zoom 1:30 on Fridays

Beginning July 17, we will be studying Richard Rohr's *The Universal Christ*. Contact Jenny Lee if you would like more information at jenny222lee@gmail.com. To join the group and receive a zoom invitation, Carol Thomas can take care of you. Contact her at ctmshm@gmail.com



CE Fall Curriculum

(The following schedule will be the same whether it is in person or Zoom)

Welcome Back Sunday- September 13

September 13- Speaker Laura Sidlinger

Laura will share her thoughts on our new theme-
"Building and Maintaining Relationships"

September 20- we will begin our new curriculum:

The Walk, Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life by Adam Hamilton

TOPEKA JUMP

Trinity's justice ministry, Topeka JUMP, held a Celebration on July 20 in the form of a Car Party in the parking lot of the First Baptist's Church. JUMP celebrated the end of a successful investment drive and the addition of four new congregations to the justice ministry. Those new congregations are Suzanna Wesley United Methodist Church, First Congregational Church, Fellowship Bible Church and New Life Baptist Church.

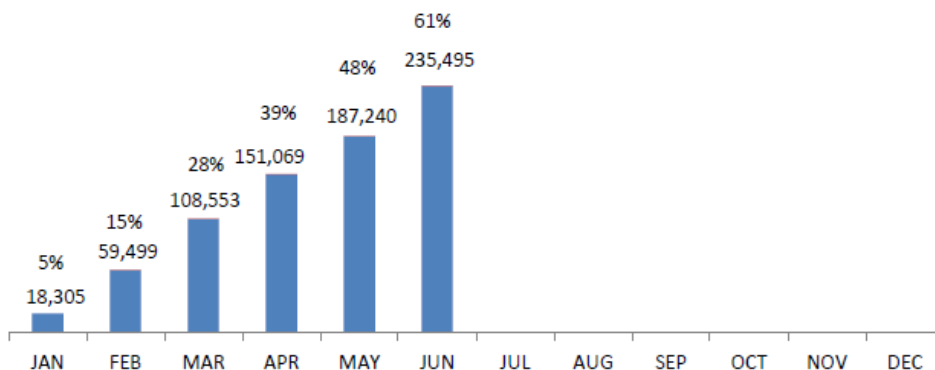
JUMP continues to work on the issue campaigns of Affordable Housing, Public Transportation, and Violence.

- Violence Campaign:** Last year Topeka Police Chief Cochran and Shawnee County DA Mike Kagay agreed to implement a proven intervention to curb the violence in Shawnee County. This strategy is locally known as SAVE (Strategies Against Violence Everywhere). At JUMP's Nehemiah Assembly in April, County Commissioner, Aaron Mays agreed to recommend the commission dedicate \$100,000 to fund a SAVE project manager and a street team. This project manager will hold the pieces of SAVE together so we can decrease violence. The funding for this project manager will be on the County Commissioner's agenda in September and JUMP representatives will be present to support the funding.
- Transportation Campaign:** In 2017, JUMP requested Topeka Metro to expand public transit to major employers outside the city limits. Two pilot ride-to-work programs were created and became known as NETO and SOTO. These programs provide rides outside the city to living wage jobs at such places as Target Distribution, Mars Chocolate Factory, Reser's Fine Foods, and Goodyear. By the end of 2019, SOTO and NETO gave 26,360 rides. At this year's Nehemiah Assembly, City Councilman Padilla and County Commissioner Cook agreed to bring before the JEDO board (Joint Economic Development Organization) a motion to permanently fund SOTO and NETO in its 2021 budget. This permanent funding will be on JEDO's agenda in September and JUMP members will be in attendance to show their support.
- Affordable Housing Campaign:** Many Topeka renters are spending more than 50% of their income on rent and utilities. Last year JUMP got the Topeka City Council to unanimously pass an affordable housing trust fund ordinance and the City of Topeka then hired consultants to conduct a Topeka Housing Study. On July 14, the consultants presented their findings. Their number one recommendation is funding of an affordable housing trust fund. JUMP is encouraging the City Council's adoption of the study and immediate implementation, as well as, the allocation of seed money into the trust fund. Shawnee County has been given \$36 million in COVID-19 relief funds. JUMP encourages the city to apply for some of these relief funds and apply them to affordable housing. A housing trust fund will incentivize construction and rehabilitation of affordable housing.

THERE IS NO PLACE LIKE HOME!

FINANCE MATTERS

Growth of Pledge Gving in 2020



The Act of Giving allows God to Change our Hearts

WAYS TO GIVE TO TRINITY

By checks to:

Trinity Presbyterian Church
4746 SW 21st Street
Topeka, KS 66604

Online Bill Payment:

A service offered by most financial institutions, which creates automatic recurring or one-time gift payments electronically from your bank account.

Designate Trinity as payee, and have payments sent to:

Trinity Presbyterian Church
4746 SW 21st Street
Topeka, KS 66604

MISSION COMMITTEE



DOORSTEP

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

We would like to thank everyone who donated items for Christmas in July, money for our Summer Cash Bash or as part of the Envista Cares Challenge in July! We continue to help people where we can with emergency services during this time of pandemic, and the clothing room is now open twice a week for clients.

Sign Up for Doorstep's Neighbor Helping Neighbor Walk/5K Run!

Sunday, October 4th is the date for this year's fundraiser! We are still planning to move forward with the fundraiser this year and make changes, if needed, as time progresses.

You can sign up to participate yourself for \$30 including a t-shirt (deadline September 16th to order a shirt) or sponsor a walker/runner! Those getting sponsors will get a free t-shirt with pledges of \$100 or more. All proceeds will benefit Doorstep, Inc.

Get your family, friends, youth, community groups together and join us this October!

We are excited about this event! It will start/end from shelter houses 1 & 2 at Lake Shawnee. The Walk/Run will start at 2:00pm with celebrity starter, Chris Fisher from WIBW-TV 13 joining us again this year! We will have some entertainment prior to the start and after the walk/run return to the shelter houses for a snacks & drinks!

You can sign up on our website: www.DoorstepTopeka.org after August 1st. Sign-up and sponsor forms are also available from the website or congregations.

TDC is hiring at all locations. If you know anyone who is looking for full or part time work, you may want to share the following information from Karin, Juarez, Dir. of Little Explorers' Learning Center at Trinity.

Help is needed immediately as we are filling slots rapidly. We have so many people using summer vacation time, and two employees are relocating to other cities.

Please go to www.learnplaygrow.org and click the employment tab for more information.

Application forms may be sent to davidgeorge@learnplaygrow.org or they can be dropped off at 3601 SW 29th St., Suite 209.

- 1 Full-Time Lead Teacher
- 1 Full-Time Assistant Teacher
- 1 Part-Time Assistant Teacher
- 1 Full-Time Float
- 1 Part-Time Float
- 1 Center Assistant (Kitchen)"



TDC Learning Centers
learnplaygrow.org

PARISH NURSE



HAND SANITIZER ALERT!



Oh MY! As if there hasn't been enough in life to deal with during this pandemic, one now has to concern oneself with a product used for one's health and safety that could potentially be "bad!" The FDA has issued a number of warnings, and an internet search shows many recent news stories on the need to be alert to some hand sanitizers that are hazardous to one's health!

The FDA (Food and Drug Administration) is warning consumers and health care providers about the growing number of hand sanitizers that contain the toxin methanol, also known as wood alcohol. Methanol can be toxic when absorbed through the skin and deadly if swallowed. "Substantial methanol exposure can result in nausea, vomiting, headache, blurred vision, permanent blindness, seizures, coma, permanent damage to the nervous system or death." The agency has also seen a sharp increase in these products that are labeled to contain ethanol (also known as ethyl alcohol) **but have actually tested positive for methanol contamination.** From 6/19/20 to 7/14/20, the FDA has recalled or recommended recalls on around 70 hand sanitizers for various reasons... either they are considered toxic because they contain methanol, or not effective because they don't contain the recommended amount of active ingredient, or they were made in a questionable facility. FDA states, that those "who have been exposed to hand sanitizer containing **methanol** should seek immediate treatment, which is critical for potential reversal of the toxic effects of methanol poisoning. "

Young children who accidentally ingest these products, as well as adolescents and adults who drink them as an alcohol substitute, are most at risk for methanol poisoning, and hospitalization. The lengthy list of potentially dangerous sanitizers include brands sold at wholesalers and big box stores. Please read the label and refer to the following FDA website for the latest info on recalls as this can frequently change. Note that almost all the recalls were products that were made in Mexico.

<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-updates-hand-sanitizers-methanol>

The FDA also warns against:

- The dangers of drinking any hand sanitizer under any conditions. While hand sanitizers with possible methanol contamination are more life-threatening than those that are not contaminated, FDA urges consumers not to drink any of these products.
- Certain hand sanitizers that **may not contain a sufficient amount of ethyl alcohol or isopropyl alcohol.**
- Hand sanitizers that are sold or offered for sale with **false and misleading, unproven claims** that they can prevent the spread of viruses such as COVID-19, including claims that they can provide prolonged protection (e.g., for up to 24-hours).
- Products that are **fraudulently marketed as "FDA-approved" since there are no hand sanitizers approved by FDA.**
- Products packaged to appear as drinks, candy or liquor bottles, as well as products marketed as drinks or cocktails because their appearance could result in accidental ingestion or encourage ingestion. Children are particularly at risk with these products since ingesting only a small amount of hand sanitizer may be lethal in a young child.

"The FDA urged consumers to STOP using the methanol products, which should be immediately discarded in hazardous waste containers. Do NOT flush or pour these products down the drain."

The CDC recommends using **sanitizers that contain at least 60% ethanol alcohol (ethyl alcohol or isopropyl alcohol)**, as well as frequently washing hands with soap and water for a 20 seconds.

Kathy Welch, Parish Nurse

Dear Trinity Friends,

Thank you all so much for all your support at the time of Deacon's death. The cards, written messages and phone calls were so comforting.

We are proud to be part of such a caring church family. Thanks for your support in the past, now and always.

Pam, Melissa and Ainsley.



7-Aug Jill & Eric Greer
 8-Aug Gerald & Joyce Adcock
 9-Aug James & Peggy Morford
 13-Aug Vicky & Don Walters
 14-Aug Dennis & Jane Williams
 23-Aug Jeff & Barbara Koci
 31-Aug Jess & Margaret Danner

Happy Anniversary

3-Aug Dylan Smelser
 8-Aug Jane Smelser
 8-Aug Don Boyd
 9-Aug Phyllis Todd
 10-Aug Patricia Miller
 10-Aug Laurie Chandler
 12-Aug J. Ricks
 16-Aug Randall Scott
 17-Aug Isabel Ashley
 22-Aug Talia Young
 23-Aug Maggie Crow
 25-Aug Lenny Njoroge
 25-Aug Jerrek Zabokrtsky

27-Aug Martha Huizenga
 28-Aug Claudia Jackson
 28-Aug Cheryl Lindstrom
 30-Aug Becky Bollinger
 31-Aug Jerry Niehaus
 31-Aug Jessie Zimmerman

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Our property chair, Randall Scott, "plunges" into his new role....



GREEN CORNER






HOW TO RECYCLE IN TOPEKA AND SHAWNEE COUNTY

Please help us recycle properly in Shawnee County. Regardless of your recycling service provider, here is what you can and cannot recycle in your curbside containers. And please, do not bag your recyclables.

Accepted: Cardboard, Office Paper, Magazines, Junk Mail, Paper Sacks, Cereal and Cracker Boxes, Aluminum and Tin cans, Clean Aluminum Foil, Plastic Water Bottles, Plastic Buckets, Plastic Bottles & Tubs #1, #2, & #5.

Not Accepted: Plastic Grocery Bags, Pizza Boxes, Styrofoam of any Kind, Paper Plates, Milk Cartons or Juice Boxes, Used Motor Oil Bottles, Anything with Food Waste on it, Plastic #3, #4, #6, & #7, Anything Not on the List Above, AND GLASS.

GLASS - Any glass that is placed in the recycling container does not get recycled. It is processed out of the recycle stream and ends up in the landfill. If you would like to recycle glass, please deposit your glass in one of our purple glass containers. We are looking to add more glass containers to make it more convenient to recycle glass. The current locations for these are:

-  Wehner's Thriftway – 551 E US Hwy 24 Traffic Way, Rossville, KS 66533
-  Household Hazardous Waste Facility – 131 NE 46th St, Topeka, KS 66617
-  Albert Neese Masonic Lodge – 5947 SE 45th St, Tecumseh, KS 66542-9538
-  District 2 SNCO Public Works Building – 1639 N Washington Street, Auburn, KS 66542
-  Lowes – 1621 SW Arvon Pl, Topeka KS 66615

Please remember, curbside recycling is a free service that Shawnee County Solid Waste offers to their customers.

If you would like to opt out of the recycling program, please call 233-4774 to arrange to have your container picked up. If you have any questions, feel free to email us at solidwaste@snco.us



Philicia McKee, Executive Director
Keep America Beautiful–Topeka/Shawnee County
PO Box 750775, Topeka, Kansas 66675-0775
e-mail: kab@kabtopsh.org
(785) 224-0446 office/cell
(785) 290-1105 fax
website: www.kabtopsh.org

An Executive Partnership with Shawnee County



Trinity Presbyterian Church
4746 SW 21st Street
Topeka, Kansas 66604-3592

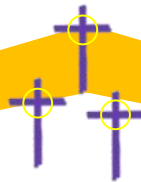


YouBelong@TrinityPresbyterian.net

www.TrinityPresbyterian.net

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Topeka, Kansas
Permit No. 819

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



THE SCENES

WORSHIP



BEHIND



OF TRINITY

