

THE *talking trinity*

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TOPEKA, KANSAS



"DEAR TO MY HEART" 2021 STEWARDSHIP

Autumn brings us fond memories of home-comings, harvest seasons and thanksgiving for God's bounty. It also reminds us of the many blessings we have received and those things that are dear to our hearts. Fall is also stewardship season and this year's theme for the Stewardship and Commitment Campaign is "Dear My Heart". Trinity's Session is currently developing a budget for 2021. The only way we can estimate the funds available for continuing our ministries, mission

projects and programs into the coming year is through the return of your pledge cards. The Stewardship Committee invites you to reflect on those people and activities that you hold "dear to your heart" and then prayerfully consider how



you will commit your time, talent and treasure to express your thanks to God and Trinity. Please return your pledge cards by November 12th. If you need a pledge card, please contact Becky Schooler, Stewardship Committee Chair, at 271-7230.

"... Consider how you will commit your time, talent and treasure to express your thanks to God and Trinity"

NOVEMBER 2020

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A Message from Mere	2
Finance Matters	3
Deacons' Ministry	3
Mission Committee	3
Property Committee	4
Talpetates News	4
Thank You	5
Birthdays & Anniversaries	5
Sanctuary Flower Dedications	5
OFS-Operation Food Secure	6-7
Living Green	8
Christmas Joy Offering	8
TDC/Pie Sales	9
Christian Education - Adults	10
Session Highlights	10
Parish Nurse	11
Deacons' Christmas Dedications	12
Angel Tree	12

NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2021

HERE I AM, LORD, SEND ME.

The Nominating Committee is currently looking for nominations for Elders, Deacons, and Endowment Committee Members. Those of us that have been studying *The Walk* (Hamilton A) either during Sunday School or Worship know that an essential practice of the Christian life is **serving**. God's primary mode of working in the world is through people.

And what better way to serve than being an Elder, Deacon, or on the Endowment Committee?

THE CALL TO SERVE

The call to serve can come in many ways. Sometimes the call is an inward call by your own desire to serve the church and if this is the case, we would love you to volunteer for a position that you desire to fill. In other cases, there may be an outward

calling as members of our community recognize in you the gifts and talents necessary for a particular office. If you know of someone that you feel would be a great fit for one of these positions, please talk to them first, then let the committee know.

PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER

When someone talks to you about filling one of these positions, please prayerfully consider your

answer. It may not be the "right time" but perhaps God is making it right for you. The members of the Nominating Committee are: Marvin Burris, Chair, Cathy Armstrong, Jan Holiwell, Pat Thomblison and Bruce Voigt.

"The call to serve can come in many ways."



A MESSAGE FROM MERE

I recently spoke at a JUMP event for Team Leaders. Some of you had the opportunity to hear my reflection, and I have included it below so that I can share it with my Trinity Family:

Some of you know that I am a knitter. Admittedly, I go through phases, some where I will start and complete several odd projects in rapid succession. If you talk to a knitter or crocheter in your life, they may give several reasons for enjoying their craft. I like knitting because it gives me a chance to actually complete something. There are days when ministry, church, and justice work feel like an endless cycle, like Sisyphus condemned to forever pushing his boulder up the mountain. Knitting gives me a chance to follow a pattern and achieve an expected outcome--a rare joy, and one I cherish.

This year, though, our lives have unraveled. Covid-19 has unwound the fabric of our society, and people who were already living on the margins have plunged further into economic uncertainty. Lives are at risk. As communities of faith, we have seen our own ways of being together unraveled. Even though we celebrated Easter and other Holy Days with the miracle (yes, miracle) of technology, it hasn't been the same. I know I miss seeing my community face-to-face, and I also know you do, too.

All knitters know that at some point, you have to rip your project out, especially if you forget a stitch, or fumble the stitch pattern, or if the gauge is all wrong. I used to really hate frogging (the word for taking your knitting apart). But frogging is also an exercise in letting go. Nothing is really lost when your yarn is unraveled--it is given a chance to rest and start over. Then you can knit something new, or re-start your project. As long as you have your yarn, the possibilities are endless.

The Psalmist once wrote, "For it was you (God) who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." While this pandemic has rended much asunder, I also am hopeful for what God is knitting in this new era. I believe that God has ripped apart systems of injustice. I also believe that God has handed us a pair of needles and has invited us to knit garments of justice. If you look closely at a knitted garment, then you will notice the thousands of stitches that chain together. Each of us is both knitter and stitch, and we are all knit together. In his Letter from Birmingham Jail, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. writes: "I am cognizant of the interrelatedness of all communities and states. I cannot sit idly by in Atlanta and not be

concerned about what happens in Birmingham.

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

Justice networks are the first stitch we make as JUMP leaders. Then we keep knitting as we pursue the cause of justice in our community. We will keep knitting, right up to the Nehemiah Action, but we won't get to bind off yet--the work of justice continues. We are tied in a single garment of destiny. So, let's pick up our needles and get to work.

In Christ,
Rev. Meredith



**"This year, though,
our lives have unraveled.
Covid-19 has unwound
the fabric of our society..."**

FINANCE MATTERS

2020. We are not quite at the end of the year, but please begin thinking about completing your 2020 pledges and gifts to Trinity. In order to put your donations on your 2020 statement, and the uncertainty of mail delivery, we are asking that all donations be received on or before Wednesday, December 30, 2020. Any donations after that will be recorded as a 2021 donation. The timeliness of your gifts is appreciated in order for the Financial Secretary to

correctly process and record them.

2021. If you are considering pre-paying any or all of your 2021 pledge, please be sure to clearly mark your gift as '2021 Pledge' to ensure it is correctly recorded.

If you are considering a gift of mutual funds or appreciated securities, please contact me when you make the transaction. The broker will notify me of the amount

of the sale and the name of the stock, but I have no way of knowing the owner or purpose of the fund or stock gift. Knowing ahead of time about your gift helps me to track the transaction. Trinity suggests you begin to initiate your transfers by Friday November 27th to allow sufficient time to process your gift.

Contact the Financial Secretary, Carol Shannahan, by phone 559-8551, or by email carolsbutterflies1@gmail.com if you have any questions.

HOW TO SUPPORT OUR DEACONS' MINISTRY

Every Communion Sunday, Trinity uses the loose offering to help support our Deacons. Since not everyone is worshipping in person, we want to open this means of support to everyone.

If you would like to support the Deacons in this way, and you are

writing a check, please make it clear on the memo line of your check. [i.e. '*Deacons communion offering*', or '*Loose Offering for Deacons*'].

If you want to make a donation to the Deacons ministry, it greatly facilitates the recording of these donations when we receive them

before Communion Sunday which is generally the first Sunday of the month.

Contact the Financial Secretary, Carol Shannahan, by phone 559-8551, or by email carolsbutterflies1@gmail.com if you have any questions.



MISSION COMMITTEE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

TRINITY DOORSTEP COORDINATOR:



Mission Committee thanks Pam Oroke for serving 15 years as the Doorstep Coordinator for Trinity.

Pam served as liaison between Doorstep and Trinity, interpreting needs and coordinating Trinity's donations of time and resources. She has retired and we need someone to fill those shoes.

Responsibilities include:

- ♥ volunteering time at Doorstep to become familiar with the operation of services;

- ♥ participate with Doorstep in special events;
- ♥ receive regular communications from the director/board including e-mails and when possible the resumption of a monthly noon meeting (first Thursday) at Doorstep;
- ♥ coordinating volunteers from Trinity during March for clothing room responsibilities;
- ♥ work with the mission committee to coordinate Trinity's response to needs for donations of food and clothing;
- ♥ work with mission committee to assure Doorstep needs, fundraisers and activities are promoted to the congregation.

If you would be willing to take up this responsibility, contact Christa Sloop or Peggy McAdoo.

MISSION COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Do you have a passion to serve others? Trinity's Mission Committee is looking for one or two more people to join us as we are called to help others who could use our help. If interested, please contact Christa Sloop.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TRINITY, YOU ASK?

Trinity's Property Committee has been working! During October a significant upgrade to Trinity's HVAC systems was completed. Four new furnaces and air conditioner condensers were installed to replace 25 to 32 year old units that were failing. The areas serviced by these units are the church officers, parlor, kitchen, first floor restrooms and most of the lower level classrooms. The new units will assure the many people who use our building each day are comfortable. **THANK YOU PROPERTY COMMITTEE!**



TALPETATES NEWS

Anton Ahrens has continued to be in contact with people in Talpetates, El Salvador. On October 11th he received this communication from Carmen, the Topeka/Talpetates project director in the village.

As is clear in the message, our prayers and financial support to the community are needed now more than ever. This ministry is "Dear to the Heart" of everyone who has visited Talpetates since 1992.

Carmen writes,
"Good morning. At school we continue

working online and the government is paying the (8 government sponsored) teachers however the government is more demanding. The teachers must provide daily reports of what is done with the students and a weekly report. The 2 teachers provided by Trinity continue to work with their students online as well. Thank you for continuing to support our school through the COVID crisis.

In Talpetates, we have had many people who have died during this year but due to kidney failure, that news I did not tell you in the previous message, so we have

to consume a lot of water and take care of ourselves much more.

Thank you and have a good day."



"...2 teachers provided by Trinity continue to work with their students online..."

Thank You!

I want to thank all of my church family for the prayers and concerns on my behalf. Also all of my Angels who gave me rides, meals and even leaving a K-State game to help me get into my own car! [Go Jayhawks]. I won't list all of you by name because you know who you are! Again thank you and God Bless!

Love in Christ, Carol Shannahan

Dear Trinity Friends,

Thank you so much for the many beautiful cards, gifts, and thoughtful notes you showered on me for retirement. I had to keep the kleenex box close by! I miss you all, but many fond Memories of you will remain. God bless you as you continue a ministry of loving care for others.

Sheryl Daniels

Dear Trinity friends:

Thanks to all of those that sent me birthday cards. I have missed being able to attend church and see everyone. I do want to thank those that are deacons and have kept in touch for the past several years-this is truly a service that I appreciate.

Joann Hurt



01-Nov	Taelyn Young
03-Nov	Annie Leahew
03-Nov	Ainsley Wallace
04-Nov	Wani Mulegwa
06-Nov	Carmen Raines
08-Nov	Kristin Chooncharoen
10-Nov	Karen Leon Boswell
10-Nov	Lynn Weaver
12-Nov	Gerald Adcock
13-Nov	Carol Hornecker
15-Nov	Toni Farrell-Higgins
17-Nov	Craig Stafford
17-Nov	Rose Swanson
18-Nov	Elisabeth Mulegwa
18-Nov	Becky Jones
20-Nov	Ben Lathrop
20-Nov	Alex Lathrop
22-Nov	Vicky Walters
24-Nov	Ed Raines
26-Nov	Madison Hughes
28-Nov	Breton Sloop Struble
30-Nov	William Ashley



18-Nov	Anton Ahrens & Susan Stickley
24-Nov	Tom & Laurie Ashley



FOLDERS EXTRAORDINAIRE

2020 SANCTUARY FLOWERS were provided to the glory of God on:

Sept. 13	by Karen & Mike Dove in loving celebration of their anniversary.
Sept. 20	by Vicky Walters in loving celebration of God's wonderful creation of Earth.
Sept. 27	by Mary Nestor in loving memory of her dad, Harry's birthday.
Oct. 04	by Mary Nestor in loving memory of Shirley Burnett.
Oct. 11	by Kelly & Bruce Voigt in loving honor of their anniversary.
Oct. 18	by Becky Crowl in loving memory of family who have passed on.
Oct. 25	by Brenda Dietrich.





**FREE
FOOD**

**DISTRIBUTION
WEDNESDAYS
10 AM**

Trinity Presbyterian Church
4746 SW 21st
(21st & Sims St.)
North Parking Lot
No Income Requirements

On October 7,
Trinity began giving
out free boxes of food
as a partner of the
Operation Food
Secure Program run
by the Topeka Rescue
Mission.

The food is provided
by the USDA/ Farmers
to Families Food Box
Program. The Goal: to
show compassion and
love for our
community neighbors
facing hunger.

Pictured here is a
little peek at what
goes on the day of
distribution.

To date, Trinity has
distributed food to
630 households which
represents 2,105
people served.

The "TRINITY TRUCKERS" start out early to load up the trucks with 30 lb boxes



At 9am, the parking lot is filled up.....Folks are ready and waiting for the trucks



...then begins the Unloading of trucks and the Loading of trunks.



Ralph & Stan set up signs to invite all.



And they came.... by
bicycle,
walking,
wagons,
cars,
and they
brought
carts!



Contents of the





of food...180 boxes in all. > > > > >



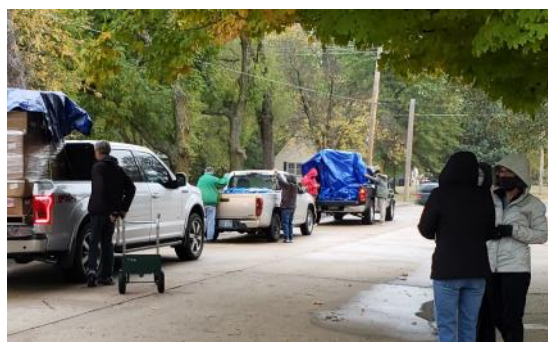
Meanwhile...folks are lining up! > > >



to arrive > > >



They arrive! > > >



> > > >



Barry Feaker,
Exec. Dir of the
Topeka Rescue
Mission helps
load the first box
on the first day
of distribution.



e first week's food box.



Local news media spreads the word.



The "Trinity Organizers"



Learn more about Trinity's amazing volunteers
in future newsletters.

LIVING GREEN

Enough plastic bottles are thrown away each year to circle the earth four times!! ("The Recycler's Handbook" by Earth Work Group)

Single-serve plastic bottles are the most difficult to capture, because people use them on the go. Remember to take your bottles home with you to recycle them or be sure to find a public recycling bin.

Over 2.54 million plastic bottles are used each hour in America. First introduced to the world in the 1970's, plastic bottles are now more popular than glass. In the recycling world, recycled soda and water bottles are referred to as Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET). Once PET plastic is sorted from single stream recycling, it is stripped of all labels and caps and sorted

LIVING GREEN

by color in order to ensure re-manufacture into a predictable color. The plastic is then sterilized, crushed, chopped into confetti-sized pieces, melted and reformed into a new product. PET bottles can be converted into thread used by carpet and clothing companies, allowing them to live up to their claims of "going green." It can be made into tents, ski jackets, and even sleeping bags for campers. The production of these recycled products is said to keep three million bottles out of the landfill every year and saves half a million barrels of oil annually.

Our government's own Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) states that it takes two-thirds less energy to produce recycled

LIVING GREEN

products than to continue with "business as usual." This means there are 400,000 fewer tons of harmful air emissions coming from these production companies. The EPA says the fossil fuels saved from refraining from the use of virgin material is enough to power a city the size of Atlanta from an entire year. The EPA also notes recycling used 90% less water than manufacturing with virgin material. Seeing as Americans use two-million plastic bottles every hour it is a relief to know they are not all landing up in our landfills.

Five, 2-liter recycled PET bottles produce enough fiberfill to make one ski jacket. (U.S. EPA)
Recycling one ton of plastic saves about 16 barrels of oil, over 5700 kilowatts of energy, and more than 30 cubic yards of landfill space. (National Recycling Coalition)



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Trinity will celebrate the 2020 Christmas Joy Offering dedicated to Christian Leaders - Past, Present, and Future.

Consider your prayerful gift to support our retired church leadership, current church leadership who have been hit

especially hard this year with hardship due to the pandemic and other health issues, and our future church leaders in training in a variety of schools reaching out to Black and Hispanic students.

For the tech savvy, visit <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/stories/> during your prayer and study time to see the variety of ways Presbyterian giving assists others. Watch for more information through December.



Being Together

God saw the great needs of the world and offered a perfect gift, a gift that brought God and humanity closer together. God's perfect gift to us, Jesus Christ, offered the power of being with us. According to Matthew's Gospel, one of the names given to Jesus is Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."

During these past months, many of us weren't able to be together in person. But we have always been together in spirit, and in faith. God has been with us. And through our gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering, we are together with those who need our love and support.

Because God is with us, we see the potential of students of color who will become our leaders and we seek to come alongside them, to encourage them, to be with them.

50%
of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Because God is with us, we see church workers who have critical financial needs and we come alongside them, to assist them — we are with them.

50%
of your gifts provide assistance for current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.

Thank you for your gift to the Christmas Joy Offering — for when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

In 2015, Rose Bryant was at a crossroads in her life — a job she needed to support she and her son fell through due to her lack of a college degree. Discovering she could go back to college, and qualify for scholarships supported by the Christmas Joy Offering, changed everything. She found special joy as a member of Stillman's renowned choir. She graduated in 2019 and is now an English and Language Arts teacher in Dallas, Texas.

"I don't think I would be here without the support of Stillman," she said. "The amazing thing is that all of this has had a ripple effect. I was able to finish my goal because of the support I received, and I know of at least six people who came directly to me to find out how they could do the same, including my younger sister."

The Christmas Joy Offering supports Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color like Stillman College in Tusculum, Alabama.

The ripple effect that Rose speaks of starts when each of us does some small thing, such as giving a gift to the Christmas Joy Offering, the power of which grows stronger and stronger as it is passed along.

Thank you for your generosity.

WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.

CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS
LEADERSHIP PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

The Christmas Joy Offering reflects that God is with us, through the generous gifts that support church leaders among us, retired, present and future, who have pointed us to God. Even as we support our current and former church leaders through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, God is calling new leaders for our Church and world, through the ministry of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color — offering students the means for a brighter future and enhanced opportunities to use their talents and skills to serve God, the Church and the world for years to come.

WAYS TO GIVE

- Through your congregation
- Text JOY to 56512 to learn more or donate
- Online at pcusa.org/christmasjoy

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission

The Christmas Joy Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The church-wide Special Offerings drive Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s role in important work in defining what it means to be a congregational church in the 21st century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Special Offerings offer opportunities for partnerships, learning, and witness and thus profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.



Trinity's justice ministry, Topeka JUMP, held its house meetings at the end of September. Twenty-eight people took part and Trinity gained additional Network Members. We now have 25 people representing Trinity in the justice ministry. In addition, throughout Shawnee County 28 other congregations held house meetings. This resulted in 337 people participating in house meetings and sharing 229 stories about a time they or a loved one felt left out, desperate or struggled to have their basic needs met. Out of these stories new issues have arisen and on Oct. 26th JUMP will hold its Community Problems Assembly where Network Members will vote on what new issue JUMP should pursue.

Issue Campaign Updates:

Affordable Housing: (2015-Present)

JUMP continues its campaign work on Affordable Housing. Topeka's housing crisis has put more than 7,000 families in need. The City hired consultants in 2019 and the results of their housing

study revealed that we have a shortage of 3,260 rental units for families making \$15,300 a year or less. The housing study's number one recommendation was the funding of an Affordable Housing Trust Fund. The City Council has created a committee to work on funding for the trust fund and JUMP has a member on this committee. JUMP's core group involved in this campaign will continue to work for funding of the trust fund.

Curbing Violence: (2018-Present)

Violence continues to be a major problem in Shawnee County. Both Police Chief Cochran and DA Kagay are committed to implementing a proven violence reduction strategy- Group Violence Intervention (GVI). In Shawnee County, this strategy is known as SAVE (Strategies Against Violence Everywhere). In August, the County Commission voted unanimously to fund a project manager to head up the implementation of SAVE and training has started. It is expected that the Project Manager will be in place by January 2021.

Transportation: (2016-Present)

Since December 2017, SOTO/NETO (Metro Ride to work program for south and north of Topeka) have given over 35,000 rides to living wage jobs. In 2020, two JEDO members made commitments at our Nehemiah action to support \$500,000 for SOTO/NETO over the next five years! At the September JEDO meeting, the motion passed for \$100,000 for one year of funding. A task force will be established to strategize the future of the program. JUMP will be a member of that taskforce and will continue to fight for long term SOTO/NETO funding.

Predatory Lending: (2017-Present)

In Kansas, payday lenders charge up to 391% interest on a short-term loan. Eighty percent of lenders reloan, and are trapped into paying large amounts of interest. JUMP is working to organize a statewide coalition, Kansans for Payday Loan Reform, to fight for lower interest rates and more fair terms for the borrower. JUMP has hired a lobbyist who will be a presence in the state house and JUMP members will use their people power to back up the lobbyist. For more information see <https://kspaydayreform.wixsite.com/website>



Pies for the Holidays!!!

A fundraiser for TDC Learning Centers, Inc.

- 1. Coconut Cream** – Real toasted coconut is featured both in the custard filling and topped with whipped cream and garnished with an authentic look and flavor. Ready to thaw and serve.
- 2. French Silk** – Rich, dark chocolate filling is topped with whipped cream and garnished with a centerpiece of chocolate curls. Ready to thaw and serve.
- 3. Cookies and Cream** – Chocolate cookie chunks blended with vanilla-leaved whipping cream rich with natural flavor that has a creamy texture.

- 4. Old Fashioned Apple** – These pies are made with Northern Spy apples and other fine ingredients - no artificial flavors or colors - with minimal added sugar. Ready to bake.
- 5. Old Fashioned Cherry** – At least a pound of fruit in every pie. This pie is baked in natural juices for a perfectly balanced fruit flavor.
- 6. Traditional Pumpkin** – This Pumpkin pie is made with Dickinson pumpkin blended with milk, eggs, and spices. Bring back memories of family pies, but without all the work.

- 7. Pecan Pie** – This classic southern Pecan Pie is made with natural ingredients and real eggs. A blend of pecan halves and quarters creates a full nut cover on top. Crust is 100% vegetable shortening making the crust tender and flaky.
- 8. Fruit of the Forest Pie** – Old fashioned pie with a tasty mix of apples, raspberries, strawberries, rhubarb and blueberries. Fruits are tumbled in a special mixture of sugar and spices to ensure even flavor throughout.
- 9. Banana Cream Pie** – Classic made with premium ingredients: real banana slices, pured light and creamy filling and dressed nicely with whipped topping rosettes. Crust is made with sweet graham crackers.

LITTLE EXPLORERS' LEARNING CENTER AT TRINITY

The TDC Learning Centers, of which Little Explorers' Learning Center at Trinity is one, has begun selling pies for their annual holiday fundraiser.

All orders with payment are due by Tuesday, Nov. 10th. Pie pick up at Trinity is Friday, Nov. 13th from 3pm to 6pm.

Contact the church office if you have questions about how to order a delicious holiday pie in support of LELC at Trinity.

Coconut Cream	French Silk	Cookies and Cream	Old Fash. Apple	Pecan	Old Fash. Cherry	Traditional Pumpkin	Fruit of the Forest	Banana Cream
\$14.00	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$12.00	\$14.00	\$16.00	\$12.00	\$14.00	\$14.00

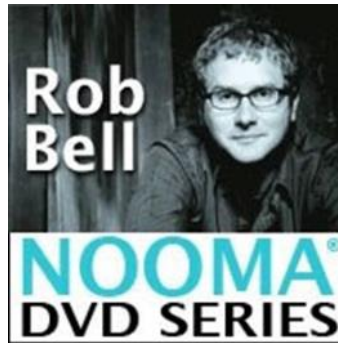
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - ADULT'S

Please join Adult Sunday school through Zoom every Sunday at 8:45.

Great learning and fellowship in a time where both can fill our hearts.

We will begin November with four of Rob Bell's lessons in the NOOMA series:

- ✓ Rhythm: What does it mean to have a relationship with God?
- ✓ Breath: Our physical breath is actually a picture of a deeper spiritual reality.
- ✓ Open: What if there is more to prayer than just God listening and answering?
- ✓ Tomato: Do we try so hard to live the perfect life that we miss out on how to truly live?



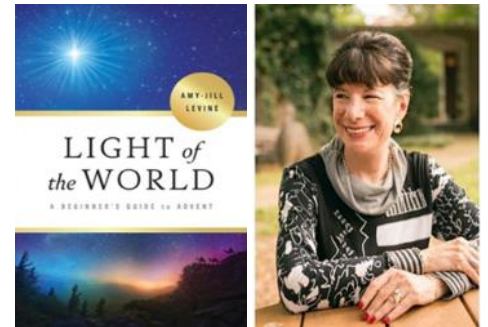
Carol Thomas will continue to be the ZOOM host.

Contact Carol at: ctmshm@gmail.com

The ZOOM waiting room will open at 8:40am. We begin sharing joys and concerns at 8:45, conclude Joys and Concerns with prayer at 9:00, and then we will begin the lesson.

“Do we try so hard to live a perfect life that.....?”

We will begin our **Advent journey** with Amy-Jill Levine through her video/book *Light of the World*. November 29-December 27.



PAGE TURNERS BOOK STUDY

Join us on ZOOM at 1:30pm Fridays. We will be starting a new book on October 30, *The Meaning of the Bible* by Amy-Jill Levine and Douglas Knight. Contact Jenny Lee if you would like more information: jenny222lee@gmail.com. Join the group by contacting Carol

Thomas at ctmshm@gmail.com and receive a ZOOM invitation.

TUESDAYS WITH THE WORD

Tuesday mornings at 9:00 AM. This is a Zoom fellowship and Bible study time with Pastor Mere. We use the Wired Word as a resource. Join us!



HIGHLIGHTS OCTOBER 21, 2020

- ❖ Approval was given for the adoption of Investment Guidelines for Trinity's Endowment Funds which policy provides for social responsibility in investing endowment funds.
- ❖ Approval was given to use up to \$24,000 from the Capital Repair/Replacement Fund to replace four furnaces and condensers.
- ❖ Session approved the 2020/2021 Church School Curriculum and Church School Teachers.
- ❖ Approval was given that the past poinsettia donations should instead now go to the givers choice of the Christmas Joy Offering, the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, or to the Los Talpetates Scholarship Fund.
- ❖ Session approved the signing of a contract with Cytek as the vendor to upgrade Trinity's audio/visuals in the amount \$45,000 (includes all equipment, labor and training) Funding will come from the General Contingency Fund, Private Donations, and Endowments Funds.



In All Things Give Thanks....

1Thessalonians 5:18



Our nation celebrates two important holidays during November... Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving Day. However, because of the pandemic, our "celebrations" of family gatherings and parades will probably be much different this year. St. Paul exhorts us to give thanks in all circumstances. Scripture speaks numerous times of having a heart full of gratitude... "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances..." 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18. During these times this may be hard to do when so many have experienced a world turned upside-down because of COVID-19, and many are experiencing hardship.

Not only do numerous studies show that grateful people are healthier in mind, body & spirit, but it opens our hearts to charity and compassion, allowing us to dismiss the barriers which prevent us from loving one another.... Seeking the best for all peoples. Love will then become our way of life, allowing the Holy Spirit to breathe, act and work through us... allowing us to share a glimpse of God's love.... Loving as God loves.

I came across this the other day in a devotional. "As King Arthur says to Sir Bedivere in Tennyson's *Morte d'Arthur*, "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of." Let 2020 be a year with more prayer and clearer vision! Living an Attitude of Gratitude to God, remembering His abundant blessings.... The gifts of our faith, life, family, friends, freedom, and nation to name a few. Prayers of Gratitude will lead us to greater things while decreasing our stress and anxiety. Persevere in prayer with Love.

It's been a few years since I have incorporated, "A Deck of Cards" in my article, but I think it is always timely, especially during November when we honor veterans and celebrate Thanksgiving.

A Deck of Cards

A young soldier was in his bunkhouse all alone one Sunday morning over in Afghanistan. It was quiet that day, the guns and the mortars, and land mines for some reason hadn't made a noise. The young soldier knew it was Sunday, the holiest day of the week. As he was sitting there, he got out an old deck of cards and laid them out across his bunk.

Just then an army sergeant came in and said, "Why aren't you with the rest of the platoon?"

The soldier replied, "I thought I would stay behind and spend some time with the Lord."

The sergeant said, "Looks like you're going to play cards."

The soldier said, "No sir, you see, since we are not allowed to have Bibles or other spiritual books in this country, I've decided to talk to the Lord by studying this deck of cards."

The sergeant asked in disbelief, "How will you do that?"

"You see the Ace, Sergeant; it reminds that there is only one God. The Two represents the two parts of the Bible, Old and New Testaments. The Three represents the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. The Four stands for the Four Apostles: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The Five is for the five virgins that were ten but only five of them were glorified. The Six is for the six days it took God to create the Heavens and Earth. The Seven is for the day God rested after working the six days. The Eight is for the family of Noah and his wife, their three sons and their wives, in which God saved the eight people from the flood that destroyed the earth for the first time. The Nine is for the lepers that Jesus cleansed of leprosy. He cleansed ten but nine never thanked Him. The Ten represents the Ten Commandments that God handed down to Moses on tablets made of stone. The Jack is a reminder of Satan. One of God's first angels, but he got kicked out of heaven for his sly and wicked ways and is now the joker of eternal hell. The Queen stands for the Virgin Mary. The King stands for Jesus, for He is the King of all kings. When I count the dots on all the cards, I come up with 365 total, one for every day of the year. There are a total of 52 cards in a deck, each is a week, 52 weeks in a year. The four suits represents the four seasons: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. Each suit has thirteen cards; there are exactly thirteen weeks in a quarter. So when I want to talk to God and **thank Him**, I just pull out this old deck of cards and they remind me of all that I have to be thankful for."



The sergeant just stood there and after a minute, with tears in his eyes and pain in his heart, he said, "Soldier, can I borrow that deck of cards?" --Originator Unknown

May you never look at another deck of cards the same! May God Bless America! Persevere in prayer with LOVE!

Prayers for a very Blessed Thanksgiving in Christ Jesus!

Kathy Welch, Parish Nurse



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DEACON POINSETTIA SALES 2.0?

The Deacons will *not* be ordering poinsettias this Advent season. However, you will still have an opportunity to make a donation and have your **Christmas dedication in memory and in honor of loved ones** appear in the Christmas Eve Bulletin and the monthly Talking Trinity newsletter. Please keep an eye out for more information in the weekly issues of the Trinity Candle and the next Talking Trinity.



PLAN TO BE AN ANGEL IN 2020

Trinity will have an Angel Tree through Advent - watch for info in future newsletters, but meanwhile, be considering these donation opportunities:

- ♥ Scholarships to Los Talpetates;
- ♥ These items for TDC/LELC:



- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • Paper Towels | • Construction paper or drawing paper |
| • Kleenex | • Glue bottles or sticks |
| • Napkins | • Googly eyes |
| • Plastic Silverware | • Crayons |
| • Paper Plates | • Baggies - sandwich, gallon, quart |
| • Hand Soap | |
| • Toilet Paper | |
| • Aluminum foil | |

