



THE *talking trinity*

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TOPEKA, KANSAS

TRINITY COMMUNICATION TEAM

Dear Trinity Family,

Due to the recent rise in Covid-19 cases in our community, the session unanimously voted to suspend in-person worship on Nov. 18th. We will continue to provide worship online via our website and Facebook. This was a difficult decision to make and we will miss seeing one another in person. Along with many churches in our community we are loving our neighbors by making this responsible choice.

If the situation in our community does not change, we anticipate meeting for worship online only until Easter 2021. In the meantime, Trinity continues to serve our church family and friends through education, mission, and worship. Please join us Sundays for online worship at 10:30 am, or watch the recording at your convenience.

Lovingly in Christ, Trinity Communication Team

**DECEMBER
2020**

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Trinity recently implemented an option for individuals to give money to Trinity through our new On-Line Giving process. You can find this option on our website at **trinitypresbyterian.net**. Select the "Give" tab in the upper right portion of the screen and follow the instructions. Please contact Carol Shannahan with questions.

On-line Giving FAQs Trinity Presbyterian Church, Topeka, KS

1. How does one give online?

Select the "Give" button on Trinity's website and you will be prompted for the needed information.

2. Do I have to set up an account to give online?

No. However, creating an account would allow you to set up recurring payments and to review your payment history.

3. Are there processing fees associated with giving online?

Yes. For each donation, the fee is 2% of the total donation.

4. Who pays the processing fees associated with giving online?

The donor is given an option to add an extra amount to help offset the 2% fee. Otherwise, Trinity incurs those fees.

5. Will online donations appear on Trinity's tax statements?

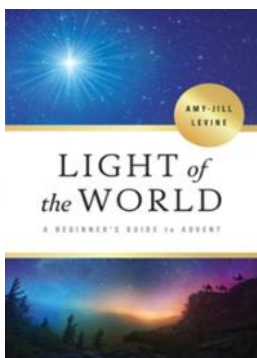
Yes. The donor is given credit for the total donation, including any offset amount. So, if the donor includes the \$2 processing fee for a \$100 donation, the donor gets credit on their statement for \$102. The donor will also receive a year-end tax statement from the Presbyterian Foundation reporting the donor's total donations for the year.

6. How does the donor specify the purpose of their donation?

There is a note section in which the donor is encouraged to indicate the specific purpose of their donation. This would be similar to using the memo line on a check and is necessary to insure the donation is used for the purpose intended.

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.



NOVEMBER 29 DECEMBER 27

Join us as Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the story of the birth of Jesus. She will trace the Christmas narrative through the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit from the Magi. These stories open conversations and connections of the Gospel stories to the Old Testament, the



role of women in first century Jewish culture, the importance of Mary's visitation, and the revolutionary implications of Mary's Magnificat, the census and the stable, and the star of Bethlehem and the Flight to Egypt.

MISSION COMMITTEE

“BE AN ANGEL”

This year, TDC's Little Explorers' Learning Center will be recipient of our **ANGEL TREE DONATION** program. During the pandemic, their work to care for children of essential workers has been especially noteworthy. Because of COVID restrictions and church closure, the program is structured differently.

In lieu of bringing purchased items to the church as we have in the past, please consider mailing a check written to “Trinity Presbyterian Church” with the type of item you are “paying” for written in the memo line. We will then purchase those items for LELC in the new year.

[Those items needed by the daycare are listed to the right.]

YOUR “GIFTS” WILL BE SO VERY APPRECIATED!



Plastic Silverware
Aluminum Foil
Drawing Paper
Paper Towels
Baggies-
sandwich,
quart or
gallon size

Construction Paper
Liquid Hand Soap
Paper Plates
Toilet Paper
Googly Eyes
Crayons
Kleenex
Napkins



2020 CHRISTMAS DEDICATION FORM

The Deacons will not be ordering poinsettias this Christmas season. Instead, we would like to give you the opportunity to take the money you would normally have spent on a plant, and make a donation to one of the worthwhile causes listed below and dedicate the donation in memory or in honor of your loved ones. Those remembered and honored will be shown on the worship screens during the ONLINE 10:30 a.m. service on December 20th.

YOUR NAME: (please print) _____

 **DONATION OPPORTUNITIES:** (select with a check mark):

- ☐ Los Talpetates Scholarship Fund ----- DOLLAR AMOUNT: _____
- ☐ Presbyterian Disaster Fund ----- DOLLAR AMOUNT: _____

Be sure to write the Fund name of your choice in the memo of your check.

DEDICATE MY DONATION AS FOLLOWS: *(List names as you want them to be printed in the dedication flyer.)*

IN MEMORY of: _____

IN APPRECIATION of: _____

☐ to the GLORY OF GOD.

 **WHEN TO PAY:**

Payment & order form are **due** in the church office by **FRIDAY, DEC 11, 2020** to have your dedication included in the list shown during online worship the Sunday before Christmas - Dec. 20th.

 **HOW TO PAY:** (REMINDER: the church office is closed / no staff on site)

SEPARATE from your regular pledge, please **mail form and check** to
Trinity Presbyterian Church - **attn: Becky C**
4746 SW 21st Street, Topeka, KS 66604)

Questions? Contact Cathy Armstrong



"DEAR TO MY HEART" 2021 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

All gifts from God's heart to ours should be shared with others in the giving of our time, talents and treasure. In these ways we can show our gratitude to God.

We invite you to look back on the things dear to your heart and prayerfully consider how you will pay it forward for others.

If you did not receive a pledge card or have misplaced yours, please contact Becky Schooler, Stewardship Committee Chair, at 271-7230 or the church office.



2020 COMMITMENT CARD

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



*"For it is
in giving
that we
receive."*

*St. Francis
of Assisi*



NAME/ADDRESS

2020 ANNUAL COMMITMENT OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES

FOR 2020, I/WE COMMIT TO GIVING
A TOTAL DONATION OF \$ _____, TO BE PAID IN:

WEEKLY ☐; MONTHLY ☐; OR ANNUAL ☐ INSTALLMENTS.

Trinity's Mission: "To Glorify God. Share Christ's Love. Make New Disciples."

FROM THE TRINITY FINANCE COMMITTEE

If you are 70 1/2, you may gain a significant income tax advantage by directing your individual retirement annuity (IRA) distribution to Trinity as a qualified charitable donation. Your distribution would be tax free and, of course, would have no tax implications for Trinity. This provision in the tax law would also apply to required minimum distributions from IRAs when you

turn 72. This provision may be particularly beneficial because with the increase in the federal standard deduction, many people no longer realize a tax benefit from deducting charitable contributions as itemized deductions. By making the annuity distribution a direct gift to Trinity, your reportable income is reduced, resulting in a tax savings. You should consult

your tax professional if you are interested in accessing this benefit to both you and Trinity.

"By making the annuity distribution a direct gift to Trinity, your reportable income is reduced, resulting in a tax savings."

FINANCE MATTERS

**As you prepare for the busy holiday season,
please keep in mind the following dates:**

Friday, November 29, 2020

Stock Transfers

If you are considering a gift of mutual funds or appreciated securities, Trinity suggests you begin to initiate your transfers by November 27 to allow sufficient time to process your gift. Please contact Carol Shannahan, before you make the transaction. Our 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 if you do not speak with me ahead of time. This advance knowledge will of your gift will help me to track the transaction easier.

December 2020

2021 Weekly Pledge Envelopes

Boxed sets of 2021 pledge envelopes are available, please call the church office or Carol Shannahan (559-8551), to arrange a time to pick them up, if you would like to have them. You do not have to use these envelopes; you may use any other envelope you choose. The important thing is to write "Pledge", or appropriate account, on the memo line of the check.

December 2020

2021 Pre-Paid Pledges

If you wish to prepay any amount of your 2021 pledge, please make sure it is clearly marked "2021 Pledge" to ensure it is recorded correctly.

Sunday, December 29, 2020

Final 2020 Giving

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 report your donations on your 2020 statement, we are asking that the donations be received on or before Wednesday, December 30, 2020. The timeliness of your gifts is appreciated in order for the Financial Secretary to correctly process and record them. Anything received after the 30th, will count as a 2021 donation. Please let me know if you need an update of your 2020 pledge.

January 2021

2020 Giving Statements

The 2020 giving statements will be mailed in January, so you will have them before you begin tax preparation.

Thank you for keeping Trinity in your Holiday planning.

Carol Shannahan, Financial Secretary

785-559-8551

carolsbutterflies1@gmail.com

"In order to report your donations on your 2020 statement, we are asking that the donations be received on or before Wednesday, December 30, 2020."

NOMINATING COMMITTEE



The Nominating Committee of
Cathy Armstrong,
Jan Holliwell, Pat Thomblison,
Bruce Voigt and

Marvin Burris (Chair), are pleased to report that they have filled the slate of nominees for elder, deacon, endowment committee and nominating committee, for classes beginning in 2021.

Many thanks go to the Committee members for their efforts, plus those who suggested persons to contact, and of course, the nominees for their willingness to serve.

We also thank those persons contacted who felt they could not commit at this time. We hope they will be able to serve in future years.



OPERATION FOOD SECURE AT TRINITY

On October 7, Trinity began distributing free boxes of food. We are partnering with Operation Food Secure Program. It is administered 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 and help the nation's farmers sell their food products during the COVID pandemic.

To date, Trinity's free food

distribution team has had the privilege of serving 3,642 people in 1,050 households in the Topeka community. Praise the Lord!



FREE FOOD

Watch for December distribution information in the Trinity Candle, our weekly newsletter.

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

And who is this team, we speak of?

Check out the current list of folks who have volunteered to help with the program.



Anton Ahrens
Art Lancaster
Becky Bollinger
Becky Crowl
Ben (friend of Jace)
BJ Walters
Bob Crow
Bob Fincham
Brenda Dietrich
Carol Hornecker
Carol Shannahan
Carol Thomas
Carrie Lancaster
Christa Sloop
Craig Neuenswander
Craig Stafford
David Shriver
Dennis Williams
Iris Neuenswander
Jace Raines
Jess Danner
Jim Jenkins
Jurahee Shriver
Karen Dove
Karen Meenen
Kathleen Thompson

Kay Wildman
Kem Sloop
Kent Lathrop
Lot Weckerling
Marilyn Leinacker
Marty Peterson
Mit Winter
Nancy Carpenter
Norm Jackson
Norm Jackson
Pat Thomblison
Ralph Howard
Reed Schoffelman
Ruth Jenkins
Stan McAadoo
Steve Timm
Susan Bozeman
Tate Schoffelman
Titan Osborn
Toni Farrell-Higgins



UPDATE FROM FROM THE PARISH NURSE

The updated graph on the next page is more comprehensive than that which was previously included in a past Talking Trinity newsletter. ***Increased knowledge of the disease and evidence based practices have changed*** treatments and guidelines over the last several months. Several other key take-away points from a recent symposium on COVID-19 and Pediatrics by a KU Med. Center physician and associate professor are:

- ❖ COVID in children— see the chart for age related symptoms.
- ❖ Ibuprofen and Acetaminophen (Tylenol) now approved for use.
- ❖ Hydrate! Hydrate! Hydrate!
- ❖ Importance of actually being seen by a doctor (not just Telehealth) if symptoms persist or increase in intensity to obtain a correct diagnosis... lots of other illnesses can cause same or similar symptoms.
- ❖ If exposed to a known case, test a minimum of 5-7 days after exposure (unless symptomatic); otherwise test is likely to come back negative since they may not have enough virus in their system to test positive. Many people are being tested too early to know if they have COVID, and then they are spreading it! Importance of quarantine if known exposure.
- ❖ Even those with asthma should wear masks... there are only **rare** exceptions.
- ❖ Masks, socially distancing and good, frequent hand washing are all important factors in reducing transmission to others, especially in the older adult population which is most at risk for serious illness, long-term health complications, and even death.

Kathy Welch, Parish Nurse



Symptoms in Children

COVID-19 vs. COLD vs. FLU vs. ALLERGIES

SYMPTOMS	COVID-19* (Gradual onset)	COLD (Sudden onset)	FLU (Sudden onset)	ALLERGIES (Varies)
Fever	Common (less common than in adults, 100 F or higher)	Common	High (100-102 F), can last 3-4 days	No
Headache	Common	Rare	Intense	Sometimes
General aches, pains	Common	Slight	Common, often severe	No
Cough	Common	Mild to moderate	Common, can become severe	Sometimes
Loss of smell or taste	Common	Rare (congestion could impact smell)	Rare	Possible (congestion could impact smell)
Poor appetite, feeding	Sometimes	Sometimes	Sometimes	Rare
Fatigue, weakness	Sometimes	Slight	Common, often severe	Rare
Extreme exhaustion	Sometimes (progresses slowly)	Never	Common (starts early)	No
Stuffy nose	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes	Common
Runny nose	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes	Common
Shortness of breath	Sometimes (less common than in adults, more common in adolescents than younger children)	Rare	Rare	Rare
Sore throat	Sometimes	Common	Common	No
Diarrhea	Sometimes	No	Sometimes	No
Nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain	Sometimes	Rare	Sometimes (can be more common in young children)	No
Chills	Sometimes	Rare	Common	No
Sneezing	Rare	Common	Sometimes	Common

As symptoms can overlap or be easily confused among disease processes, it's recommended to visit your medical provider.

* **Infants <1 year** - Most common symptoms: Fever and poor feeding, followed by respiratory symptoms such as mild cough or difficulty breathing and vomiting. **Ages 1-9** - Most common symptoms: Fever, cough, headache, diarrhea, sore throat, runny nose, muscles aches. Less common: Shortness of breath, abdominal pain and loss of taste/smell. **Ages 10-18** - Most common symptoms: Headache, cough, sore throat, fever, muscle aches, shortness of breath, diarrhea, nausea and vomiting and loss of taste/smell.

For more information: www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov

2020

What do you think of when you see or hear 2020? Vision... Eyesight... or COVID-19 pandemic, unprecedented record number of catastrophic disasters... hurricanes, earthquakes, wildfires, floods, drought, tornados, snow, hail, ice and wind storms causing great suffering, death, shut-downs... or an election year of ... you name it! One thing for certain is that this is a year that will go down in history! Prior to this year of 2020, as a nurse it primarily brought to my mind things associated with health, vision, and also the numerous Biblical references to eyesight, blindness, and vision. These scriptural passages speak of people, healings, prophecies, warnings, events, etc. Over this past year my mind, heart and soul kept hearing/singing the hymn I learned decades ago.... "Be Thou My Vision." I think it is very timely for today... a hymn that truly transcends time!

Listen to this beautiful Irish hymn at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jIMhshpf0Y4>

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art -
thou my best thought, by day or by night;
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

*Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my great Father; thine own may I be,
thou in me dwelling and I one with thee.*

*Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only first in my heart,
high King of heaven, my treasure thou art.*

*High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*



These words are attributed to a 6th century poet, St. Dalian Forgaill, in his poem, "Rop tú mo baile or Rob tú mo bhoile" in the "Old Irish" language. This prayer poem was passed down through the centuries, and was translated to English in 1905 by Mary Byrne. The best-known English version was translated by Eleanor Hull and published in 1912. It is one of the most sung hymns in the United Kingdom.



As we end this year and venture into the New Year, no matter the storms in one's life, keep your sight and focus on Jesus and "BE NOT AFRAID!"... another beautiful song by Bob Dufford, SJ. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=snmwD6d9Xo4> Truly these are God's words to take to heart to give you comfort and strength! I have read that these words appear in various ways 365 times in scripture... God knew that we needed a verse for EVERY DAY of the Year!

Speaking of VISION, give the gift of eyeglasses for Christmas. The Lions Club collects used glasses, and has collection boxes at the various Vision and Optometry centers around town. They take prescription and non-prescription glasses, including sunglasses. These donations are sent to other countries.

They also offer free vision screening services for children 6 months to 6 years who are in any daycare, preschool or school. (See side). Contact the Topeka Lions Club Spot Screener Coordinator, Spencer Smith at slsmithks@att.net or call 785-633-8321. This insert was in the October *Health and Wellness* paper... so not sure if they are presently offering screening services at this time because of COVID.

Prayers and Blessings in Christ Jesus, Kathy Welch, Parish Nurse

**FREE Vision !
Screening Service**



Now Scheduling

Eye Screening for children 6 months to 6 years old

Who can use this service?
Any Daycare, Pre-school or School with children 6 months to 6 years old

What equipment is used?
All Kansas Lions have purchased 2 hand held auto-refractors from Previa Vision. It does not touch the child and looks like a large SLR camera.

Who does the screening?
The screener is used by all of the Lions Clubs in Northeast Kansas and the Lions members assist in the screening.

How do I get the Screener scheduled?
Contact the Topeka Lions Club, Spot Screening Coordinator, Spencer Smith, e-mail: smsmithks@att.net or call (785) 633-8321

Thank You!

Trinity Members,
Thank you for cards, prayers, and Best
Get Well wishes for me over my stroke.
Had wonderful care at St Francis rehab
for two weeks. Home now and, again,
thank you. Judy Rundell

Happy Anniversary



Dec. 12
Laurie & Larry Chandler
Dec. 19
Michael & Madison Meenen
Dec. 29
Ed & Carmen Raines

Happy Birthday

5-Dec Barbara Jasper
5-Dec Don Walters
8-Dec Patricia Thomblison
8-Dec Kyle Sommer
10-Dec Scott Anderson
12-Dec Peggy Tollefson
14-Dec Louise Cunningham
14-Dec Scott Smelser
14-Dec Susan Bozeman
18-Dec Trent Stevenson
18-Dec Lou Nell Gustavson
24-Dec Bette Bossler
24-Dec Susan Stickley
27-Dec Terri Novosel
28-Dec Glenda Tegethoff
28-Dec Annamae Ahlstedt
28-Dec Lois Johnson
29-Dec Charlee Chooncharoen
31-Dec Sally Fairbank
31-Dec Tyler Kuhn
31-Dec Neva Ebeling



Thank you 2020 Mowing Team...

for cutting and trimming Trinity's lawn and north parking area this season! Members include Mike Dove, Bob Fincham, Bob Hachiya, Ralph Howard, Michael Langfitt, Randall Scott and David Shriver. Your dedication and many hours of service are appreciated!
Rev. Mere

*2020 SANCTUARY FLOWERS were provided to the glory of God on:
Nov 1st by Bob and Ann Fincham in loving honor of their parents.*

Going forward, the Sanctuary Flower ministry has been suspended until the pandemic is under control and we can safely gather and share flowers without concern.



LIVING GREEN

The 3 "R"s include -- Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

If we can reuse items then we can reduce the amount of packaging as well. Not having items delivered in plastic packaging but in cardboard boxes which can be recycled is helpful. Try to choose items which do not have a lot of plastic packaging in the store or when ordering online.

Formaticum.com - has new reusable plastic bags for any foods on their website. "All foods deserve to be kept fresher longer." These bags are made of a "unique material that preserves freshness and postpones food spoilage, helping it last twice as long as other storage alternatives." These bags are

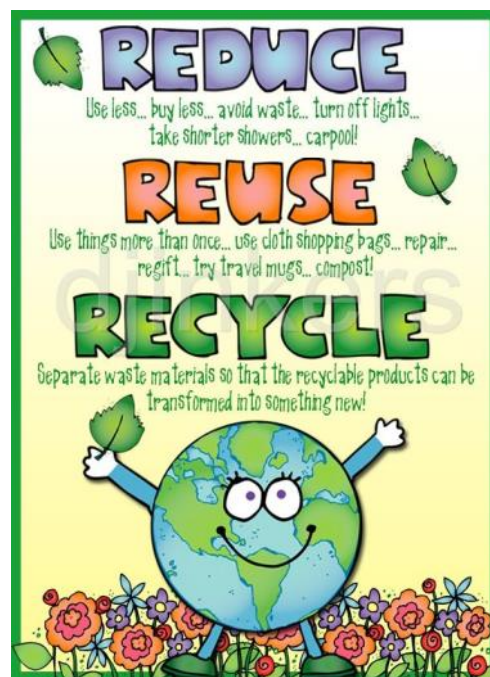
LIVING GREEN

reusable -- just wash in warm soapy water and air dry between uses. When done, they are 100% recyclable. A package of 10 costs \$8.

Remember that "living cheese is a... balance of aroma, taste, texture and appearance" Using the cheese storage products keeps cheese fresher much longer, keeps it from turning moldy and having to be thrown out or cut off of a block of cheese. Biodegradable cheese sheets or cheese storage bags or cheese storage paper all offer easy ways to protect the special freshness of cheeses instead of plastic packaging or once it's opened. Makes great gift ideas to

LIVING GREEN

help others be more environmentally conscious, too!



Members of Trinity's justice ministry, Topeka JUMP, attended JUMP's Community Problems Assembly (CPA) on Oct. 26th. At this meeting JUMP members voted on a new Executive Board. They also heard personal testimonies relating to the current campaigns of Affordable Housing, Transportation, Predatory Lending and Violence. In

JUSTICE UNITY AND MINISTRY PROJECT

addition, three new issues, which arose from of the 29 House Meetings held throughout Shawnee County, were presented. Those three issues were Health Care, Jobs and Mental Health/Addiction. After testimonies on each of these issues members voted to take on Mental Health/Addiction as a new campaign issue. JUMP now begins its research phase and on Dec. 1 will have its Research Kick-Off via Zoom.

Topeka
JUMP

JUMP
FOR
JUSTICE



CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



is along for the ride. It states God values togetherness and relationship with us, leading us to

who will soon be leaders in our Church and in the world. "God is with us." All the time. During this season of Advent, as we approach Christmas, I can't think of a more perfect gift than that. Thank you for sharing those lessons and those truths, through your gift to the Christmas Joy Offering. Please give generously, for "if we all do a little — *together* — it adds up to a lot."

Let us pray~

God, we are your Church, together. Because of your son Jesus, we are brought together to serve those who lead your Church but find themselves in need. And we are brought together with students at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color, who have the potential to lead your church and world in the future. In the name of the Christ, Emmanuel we pray, Amen.

Finding Joy in 2020

There are lots of ways to say it — but working together really does make bigger and better things possible. And, lots of times, working together makes it more fun, too. In fact, there are times made better just by our ability to be together, to be with one another.

That is something that really rings true, doesn't it? *Being together.* During these past months, many of us weren't able to be together in person. We have always been together in spirit, and in faith. But we missed seeing each other. We missed seeing faces we love — up close and personal. But that doesn't mean we haven't been together. And we definitely have not been alone. There is a word that comes up a lot during this season we call Advent in the Church, and it points to the same sentiment, but about God: "Emmanuel." Emmanuel means "God is with us," and, in Jesus, we Christians claim that God took on human form to be *with us*. "God is with us" is more than just saying God

value togetherness and relationship with one another. When we are all together as we are today — and even when we are apart.

The Christmas Joy Offering is one way we join together as Presbyterians from around the country. We do this to meet the needs of vulnerable people we might not be able to meet as individuals or as single congregations. We might not be able to meet face to face with those who need the support that our gifts provide, but we are very much still together.

The gifts we share connect us. They also change lives. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we support church workers and their families who experience critical financial needs through help from the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. We connect with the young people attending Stillman College, Presbyterian Pan American School, and the Menaul School, supporting the education and leadership development for students of color,

BEING TOGETHER

"Many hands make light work."

"Teamwork makes the dream work."

"If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot."



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785-272-2620

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www.facebook.com/TrinityTopeka

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Topeka, Kansas
Permit No. 819

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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season. However, you will still have an opportunity to make a donation