

THE *talking trinity*

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TOPEKA, KANSAS



**JANUARY
2021**

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ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING *Via ZOOM*



**JANUARY 31
SUNDAY - 11:30 AM**

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place on Sunday, January 31, at 11:30am via ZOOM.

We will hear reports from Session committees, receive the 2021 budget, and take action regarding changes in the Terms of Call for Pastor Meredith.

If you are new to ZOOM, please contact Rev. Meredith or Karen Meenen and they will be happy to help set you up.

The link to join the Zoom Meeting is:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8234895951?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8234895951?pwd=eFFYbllhUHZlcmVYd05UKzk3REg0QT09)
[pwd = eFFYbllhUHZlcmVYd05UKzk3REg0QT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8234895951?pwd=eFFYbllhUHZlcmVYd05UKzk3REg0QT09)

Meeting ID: 823 489 5951

Passcode: trinity

A WORD FROM PASTOR MERE



Contrary to what the retailers would have us believe, Christmas does Not end on December 25. Rather, Christmas Day [Or, more appropriately, the Nativity of Our Lord] sets off a 12-day long celebration of Christmastide that ends with the Epiphany on January 6. Epiphany marks the arrival of the Magi to the Holy Family. I recently watched PBS program about the 12 Days of Christmas in the time of Henry the VIII and marveled at the revelry which used to mark this festive season. For both rich and poor, the 12 days were a national holiday in which no work was to be done. And while some of the games and traditions had a profoundly secular tone, most of the days were marked by a special Mass or service of worship.

500 years or so later, our Christmas celebrations look more different. Most of us begin decorating the house right after Thanksgiving, instead of waiting for Christmas Day. In fact (and I am just as guilty of this as anyone), by the time Christmas Day arrives, we may feel weary of the holiday all together. This is where we can learn from the example of ancestors: the twelve days are an opportunity to feast, laugh, and play games. You don't have to hunt down a wild boar to serve at dinner (like King Henry VIII once did), but you can set your own feast, even if it is just a simple meal of soup and crackers served on a paper plate. I know that in a pandemic year, Christmas has been tough. We are not getting to celebrate like we want to. But we can eke out Joy, and the 12 days are a time and place to embrace God's love.

Or if anything else, you have a great excuse to keep the tree up a little longer.

May the light of Epiphany fill your heart and homes.

Rev. Meredith Kemp-Pappan



FINANCE MATTERS

Thanks to all of you who completed your 2020 giving in a timely manner.

2020 tax statements will be mailed in January. Please be sure to review your statement to confirm the accuracy of our records.

If you have questions regarding your statement, please contact Financial Secretary Carol Shannahan by calling (559-8551) or by email carolsbutterflies1@gmail.com

If you did not get a box of Pledge envelopes but would

like one, contact the Financial Secretary or the Church Office.



FROM THE TRINITY FINANCE COMMITTEE



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.

OPERATION FOOD SECURE AT TRINITY

Through December 18, 2020, Trinity was honored to assist in the distribution of free boxes of food as partners with Operation Food Secure Program. Administered by the Topeka Rescue Mission, he 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.

As of publication date, Trinity's free food distribution team has been privileged to serve **5,582 people in 1,590 households** in the Topeka. Praise the Lord!

One more distribution took place on December 23rd. The number of boxes to distribute was set for 300. We don't know as of publication date if the program will continue in 2021.



Please pray for the continuation of this program. Food insecurity is still prevalent in our community.



PROPERTY



Trinity's kitchen transformed!



The Property Committee appreciates these volunteers for their service:
Toni Farrell-Higgins for selecting the perfect paint color to complement the new flooring.

Michael Langfitt, Ralph Howard, Dennis Williams and Stan McAdoo for hours of time cleaning, priming and painting. Special thanks to Stan for serving as the project leader.

Randall Scott, Property Committee chair



THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!!



WOW!

WOW!



WOW!



PEACEMAKING COMMITTEE

A New Resolution: Matthew 25

Every new year, instead of making some grand announcement about how I'll do or be better, I like to "take stock" by reviewing the work/experiences of the year just completed and looking to the year ahead with hope and resolve to continue and expand my service of the Lord, my Creator who gave me life, gives me life anew each day, and promises me a life to come filled with God's Love.

That's what makes me think of Matthew 25, a recent initiative of PCUSA that I think fits well in Trinity's identity of serving "the least

of these." The Matthew 25 initiative has 3 components: Building congregational vitality, Dismantling structural racism, and Eradicating systemic poverty. For each of the next three months, I will make a (brief) case that outlines how we at Trinity have, and in the future might continue to address each of these components.

This month, what about Eradicating systemic poverty? Every time you advocate and act to educate someone so that they might have greater skills and opportunities, you have eradicated systemic poverty. Every Talpetates student who goes to school where there are qualified teachers (supported with your Trinity pledge), reduces systemic poverty in El Salvador. Every student who gets a high school or



college scholarship diminishes poverty's grip.

Closer to home, every Topeka JUMP action that gets people access to more decent, affordable housing and transportation to living wage jobs, fights poverty in Topeka.

Thank you for continuing to support these "missions" that change the lives of those around us, and yes, change our lives too. If the spirit moves you, please contact Anton Ahrens or Jane Williams to see how you can become more involved in these poverty-busting ministries.



WAYS TO GIVE

By personal check:

Mail it to-

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

Bank/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

Trinity Online Giving:

You can find this option on Trinity's website at www.trinitypresbyterian.net. Select the "Give" tab in the upper right portion of the screen and follow the instructions.

Remember to designate what your donation is for, either in the memo of your check, or through online giving.

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.**

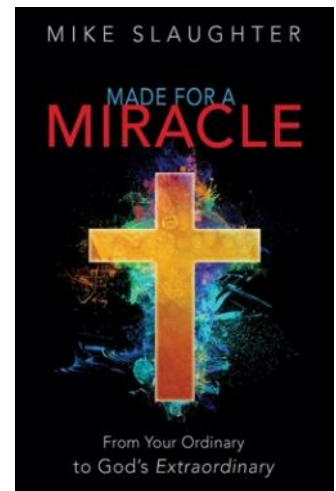
January 3, 2021



We will kick off the new year with our own Dana Schoffelman as our speaker. Dana will continue our look and study of *RELATIONSHIPS*. Please join us as we start the new year with Dana. This will be zoom Sunday school at 8:45-9:45.

January 10 - February 14, 2021

We will begin our 2021 year with a new book by Mike Slaughter, *Made for a Miracle*. Mike Slaughter examines the two components of every miracle: divine action and human responsibility. For a real miracle to take place, we must act with God, using the abilities we have and directing them toward God's work in the world.



Page Turners Book Study- Zoom meeting at 1:30 on Fridays
A new book for 2021 has not been selected, but watch the Candle for an update.

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!



This year's Martin Luther King "Whose Dream Is It?" event will be virtual with music and speakers from the Topeka community, the Martin Luther King National Historical Site and the King family. The event is scheduled for 5 p.m. January 18. More information as to how to attend will be provided closer to the date.

PNK CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Without the possibility of creating their own pageants and enjoying them in their own sanctuaries, several churches from around the Presbytery took on the assignment to make an Advent/Christmas pageant to share throughout the Presbytery. With churches recording a scene from a pageant script, a beautiful narrative emerged.

Trinity "premiered" this worship video during Sunday Morning Worship on December 27. The video is available on our website and facebook page. Our Trinity children and youth participated in this project, and we hope you will see some familiar faces share the story of the Nativity.



PRAYER CONCERNS

Audrey & Jacob Barnard and Marilyn Leinacker
 Carol Shannahan
 Cheryl Lindstrom
 Chuck Pullen
 Dolores Kirk
 Don & Carolyn Burns
 Elaine, Mike & Vicky Alexander
 Helen Rhodes
 Jace Raines
 Jamie Merklein, Felishity Blubaugh & Kenadee
 Jessie Zimmerman
 John Eddy
 Joel Maxon
 Joyce Adcock
 Judy and Carl Rundell
 Kristen Choonchoen
 Lot Weckerling
 Natalya & Pat Thomblison & Kathleen Thompson
 Pam Oroke
 Pat Miller
 Robert Burtch
 Rose Fritz
 Tom Henstock
 Wendy Pullen
 Our troops overseas

Becky Jones' friends, Janice Pechacek & Cheryl Arney; Becky Schooler's sister-in-law, Jill; Brett Stipcak; Carol Shannahan's friend, Janet; Carmen Raines' friend, Mark; Douglas Phenix; Elise Higgins' father-in-law, Bill Ward; Gerald And Joyce Adcock's aunt, Norma Jean; Iris Neuenswander's friend, Robin's family; Jaron Marcus' mother, Sherilyn; Kay & Ralph Howard's friends, Jo Miller, & Karen Swogger & daughter, Sarah, stepbrother, Max Hall, & niece, Marsha Albright & husband Doug; Leah Fulton's sister-in-law, Shirley Mulkey; Lettie Karlson's friend, K.C.; Maddie Mellies' stepfather, Dave Leinweber; Marilyn Leinacker's daughter, Lisa; Martha Miller's father & mother, Robert & Phyllis Cordell; Mary Nestor's sister, Kay Fessler; Michelle Sawtelle; Nelson Spaulding's daughter, Deborah Harris; Pat Thomblison's son's colleague & friends of the Younger family, & friend Alyssa; Ruth & Jim Jenkins' sister, Donna's grandson, Chase, nephew, Glen Nielson, friends JP & Peter, niece, Debbie, & 8-year old great, great niece, Kenzie; Toni Farrell-Higgins' mother, Loretta Farrell & her aunt, Esther Searls; Wendy Pullen's brother, Mike Roy, & friend, Gerald Manchester; Chuck Pullen's sister, Ruth Winterton & brother-in-law, Bud Winterton; Zimmerman family



Thank you!

Dale and I would like to Thank the Evangelism Committee for the tasty gift of cookies & candies. Also, Thanks to Susan Burris for delivering them to us. All your efforts have been truly appreciated.

The Langleys, Dale & Alice

Dear Friends,

I want to thank you very much for the cards you all sent to me. I wish that I could give you thanks in person. I love you all very much. I hope that we get over this mess that we have, and I could say thanks. May God Bless you.

Nelson Spaulding

[This note was received before Nelson's passing.]

Thanks to everyone for prayers to Godd for me and my son when we both got sick. I promise God made me feel better.

Lot Weckerling

Thanks so much for everyone's prayers, food, and thoughtfulness during this difficult time of losing Lynn. We certainly appreciate all you have done.

Marilyn, Audrey & Jake

Happy Birthday

03-Jan Jurahee Shriver
 04-Jan Meaghan Ricks
 04-Jan Sheryl Daniels
 05-Jan Debra Ricks
 05-Jan Ian Anabe
 07-Jan Aaron Meenen
 08-Jan Ben Mulegwa
 08-Jan Elaine Alexander
 08-Jan Ruth Jenkins
 10-Jan Titan Osburn
 11-Jan Joyce Adcock
 12-Jan Nancy Carpenter
 13-Jan Clare Higgins Thoman
 13-Jan Marvin Burris
 19-Jan Beverly Thompson
 19-Jan Kelly Voigt
 20-Jan Reed Schoffelman
 20-Jan Jill Greer
 20-Jan Melissa Bglisma
 21-Jan Chuck Pullen
 21-Jan David Ross
 21-Jan Carl Rundell
 21-Jan Kem Sloop
 22-Jan Muriel McClenny
 26-Jan Manuella Mulegwa
 27-Jan Jaxton Zabokrtsky
 27-Jan Fern Freeman
 30-Jan Ann Fincham

TRINITY MEMBER DIRECTORY ONLINE

Visit Trinity's website at
www.trinitypresbyterian.net

to access the most recent directory update. If you have forgotten the password, call or email the church office.

Happy Anniversary



1/4 Janis & Clyde Holiwell
 1/5 Marvin & Susan Burris
 1/6 Stan & Peggy McAdoo
 1/7 Duane & Martha Huizenga
 1/25 David & Jurahee Shriver
 1/30 Jeff & Linda Dolezal

LIVING GREEN

LIVING GREEN

LIVING GREEN



Ban Plastics???

According to the National Geographic, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced recently that in addition to banning single-use plastics, his government would take other, unspecified steps to reduce plastic pollution. He did not specify the products, but indicated likely candidates would include plastic bags, straws, cutlery, plates and stir sticks "Where supported by scientific evidence and warranted."

"You've all heard the stories and seen the photos. To be honest, as a dad it is tough trying to explain this to my kids. How do you explain dead whales washing up on beaches across the world, their stomachs jam packed with plastic bags? How do I tell them that against all odds, you will find plastic at the very deepest point in the Pacific Ocean?" Trudeau also indicated that Canada recycles less than 10% of its disposable plastics now and will be throwing away \$11 billion



worth of disposable plastic by 2030 without significant changes. The government will work with provinces to introduce standards for plastic manufacturers and retailers so that they become more responsible for their plastic waste and work on a nationwide strategy for zero plastic waste.

Canada has the world's longest coastline and a quarter of the world's fresh water and is joining other countries in taking steps to reduce use of disposable plastics. More than 60 nations have taken steps to reduce single use plastics by imposing bans or taxes, from a 2019 United Nations report. Last March EU's parliament voted to ban the top

10 single-use plastic items found on European beaches by 2021, and to recycle 90 % of plastic bottles by 2025.

China slowed its plastic pollution when it stopped purchasing plastic waste from other nations, drastically altering the recycling market for the earth. India's prime minister, Narendra Modi, has declared that India will eliminate all single-use plastic by 2022.

Every country needs to do its part to reduce plastic use. The next time you make a purchase, stop to think if this plastic item will have multi-uses or could be purchased another way?

Ask for items such as drinks **without** straws or extra plastic silverware starting this year.

"How do you explain dead whales washing up on beaches across the world, their stomachs jam packed with plastic bags?."



TO ACCESS THE TRINITY'S **MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY** ONLINE:

- ❖ Go to www.trinitypresbyterian.net
- ❖ Click on **Members/Session**
- ❖ Enter the **password** in the shaded area. (Call or email the church office to get the password.)
- ❖ Select the **Submit** button.
- ❖ Click on **Membership Directory**.
- ❖ Click on **View File** and **you are there!**

TO CHECK THE **SESSION MINUTES** SECTION, you need a second password. Again, call or email; then:

- ❖ Click **Session Minutes**.
- ❖ Enter the **2nd password**.
- ❖ Click **Submit**.
- ❖ Check out the list of files.

NOTE: To get to **Session Minutes**: when you go to the website, you must first enter the member password, then select the **Session Minutes**. Enter the session password and you are there. **QUESTIONS:** Call or email the office.



TRINITY CHRISTMAS DEDICATIONS IN THE YEAR 2020



The years' Christmas Dedications reflect generous donations to the Los Talpetates Scholarship Fund and the Presbyterian Disaster Fund. Thank you to all.

DONOR:

Gerald & Joyce Adcock
Marvin & Susan Burris
Nancy Clark & Family
Ken & Marion Cott
Glenda L. Tegethoff

DONOR:

Nancy Clark & Family
Mike & Karen Dove
Becky Jones

Martha Miller
Jim & Peggy Morford
Mary Nestor

Becky Schooler
Glenda L. Tegethoff
Jerry & Bev Thompson

IN APPRECIATION OF:

Granddaughter, Allison Sankey
The Amazing Trinity Staff
Phyllis Todd
Amanda Cott
being husband, Duane's, wife for 58 years

IN MEMORY OF:

David H. Todd
Our Parents
Husband Rick & other family members who
have passed away.
My husband, Jeff Miller
Clint Morford
Bobby Fessler, David Fessler, Francis Wheaton,
Shirley Burnett, Care Seltmann, Chance, Willa
My aunt & uncle, Mary & Bryce Kresle
Beloved husband, Duane L. Tegethoff
Lois & Glen Spees

TO THE GLORY OF GOD*

Brenda Dietrich Glenda L. Tegethoff



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



2021 Session

Effective January 2021

Moderator: Reverend Meredith Kemp-Pappan
Clerk: Stan McAdoo
Treasurer: Deborah Mikoleit of Mikoleit & Associates
Finance Manager: Dennis Williams
Financial Secretary: Carol Shannahan

SESSION

Class of 2021	Class of 2022	Class of 2023
Jane Williams	Kay Wildman	Susan Burris
Mike Hampton	Dana Schoffelman	Carrie Lancaster
Debra Ricks	Christa Sloop	Michael Langfitt
Randall Scott	Becky Schooler	Martha Miller

