



THE *talking trinity*

APRIL

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TOPEKA, KS

2021



MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 1, 2021

7:00 p.m.

ZOOM Service

Prayer Vigil to Follow

Join us in the Upper ZOOM for an online service of worship for Maundy Thursday. If you would like to participate in communion, you will need to prepare your elements (bread, crackers, wine, juice, etc.). A small candle will also be needed so that we can share the light of Christ.

Join the Zoom Meeting at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8234895951?pwd=eFFYbllhUHZlcmVYd05UKzk3REg0QT09>

Meeting ID: 823 489 5951

Passcode: trinity

Plan to attend the (virtual) **Trinity Prayer Vigil**, starting at 8 pm on Maundy Thursday, April 1st, and continuing through 7 am on Good Friday. This year, you'll be able to pray in the comfort of your home. To reserve a half hour or hour prayer time, contact Anton Ahrens at antonf58@att.net or 785-232-2060.

EASTER SUNDAY

April 4, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Online Worship

Service





I write this column on a cool, but sunny morning. After days of rain and clouds, it is a welcome sight to see daylight! I was able to receive my first dose of the Pfizer COVID vaccine this week, and it struck me how much those little vials of medicine represent hope. It has been a l-o-o-o-o-ng challenging year and while we are not yet out the woods with COVID, it looks like there is a light at the end of the tunnel. As St. George Harrison once sang, “here comes the sun!”

In that same spirit, I have two exciting and hopeful announcements to share with you:

At the March 17 Session meeting, **the Session unanimously voted to return to in-person worship on April 25.** Our first in-person worship service will take place at our regular time 10:30 a.m. Several factors contributed to this decision: 1) rising vaccination rates 2) decreased case count in Shawnee County 3) feedback from our congregation. When we do gather for worship, our health and safety protocols will still be in place. This includes: wearing of masks; social distancing; no congregating in the foyer before or after the service; and other practices. Given the nature of this pandemic, things can (and do) change quickly, so please refer to your Trinity Candle (weekly e-newsletter) for the most current information.

Second, I want to remind everyone to attend the **JUMP Nehemiah Assembly on April 26 at 7:00 P.M.** This will be a virtual event. You will have the option to view from your home or attend the drive-in broadcast at First United Methodist Church in downtown Topeka. The Nehemiah Assembly is one of my favorite events of the church year because it is, most of all, an assembly of HOPE. We gather in HOPE and leave HOPEFUL that justice will prevail. The Nehemiah Assembly is also a major ecumenical event; as the gospel writer reminds us, “They will come from the North, and the South, and the East, and the West to sit at table in the Kingdom of God.” At Nehemiah, we sit at a table of justice. I look forward to being with you in spirit as we work for justice in our community.

Whether I see you virtually, in-person, or some combination of both, I am blessed to be your pastor!

Grace and peace,
Rev. Meredith



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

**YOU SHALL BE
CALLED REPAIRERS
OF THE BREACH**

— ISAIAH 58

Providing relief from
natural disasters,
food for the hungry,
and support for the
poor and oppressed.

**IF WE ALL DO
A LITTLE,
IT ADDS UP TO
A LOT!**

Trinity's One Great Hour of Sharing offering will end in mid-April, but you can send in donations anytime through April. They will be greatly appreciated.
THANK YOU, Trinity members, for your generosity with OGHS!

Please write checks to "Trinity Presbyterian church" with OGHS written on the memo line. You can also give to the OGHS through our website. Go to www.trinitypresbyterian.net/give, there is an option to give to any of our special offerings.



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
PO Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Give to One Great Hour of Sharing, and join in God's call to share our bread with the hungry, to aid and shelter people overcoming catastrophe and conflict, and to resource communities working to cast off the bonds of poverty and oppression.

Name: _____ Envelope Number: _____

My Gifts: ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other \$ _____

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Visit www.presbyterianmission.org/give-oghs
for more information or to give online.



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

MISSION COMMITTEE

FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION WEDNESDAYS

OPERATION FOOD SECURE is a nation-wide project to provide free food to those who need it during these difficult times.

The government is buying food from the farmers that would normally go to restaurants so that it doesn't have to be discarded. It is a win-win situation for the farmers and the recipients.

Trinity's Mission Committee is honored to be sponsoring the distribution in our part of the city and would dedicated the effort in the name of Deacon Oroke.

If you would like to volunteer or if you have a truck or trailer to bring, please contact Stan McAdoo, Volunteer Coordinator.

Next drives: April 14 & 28

Trinity began distributing Free School sack lunches in January 2021 to children ages 1 - 18 every Wednesday from 11 am - noon.

This is a USD 501 program that provides each child two breakfasts, two lunches and two milks for the weekend. We distribute every Wednesday that USD 501 is in session and children are attending class in school. This will continue through the last day of school in May.

When school is remote learning, we will not pass out weekend meals as students will receive 7 day meals from a different USD 501 location.

FREE SCHOOL LUNCHES

Ages 1-18 yrs.

Grab 'n Go

WEDNESDAYS

11a - 12p

Trinity Presbyterian Church
4746 SW 21st
(21st & Sims St.)
North Parking Lot

TIME 1PM

FIRST COME,
FIRST SERVED
GET HERE EARLY!



Trinity
Presbyterian
Church
4746 SW 21st
(21st & Sims St.)
North Parking Lot

No Income
Requirements



BUY THE CASE AT TRINITY

The **Buy the Case** program has been fantastically supported this year. With the donation forms coming in, as of 3/23/21, we have orders for **151** cases of food!!!

As the ordered food comes into the store, it gets taken directly to Doorstep, and is in turn, given out to those in need.

To better understand how much you are giving, so far Art has delivered 1,967.8 pounds!!! of food to Doorstep. That, my friends, will feed many people. And, there is more yet to come in.

In the middle of a pandemic crisis, Trinity has truly stepped up to support getting food to those with food insecurity. A **BIG THANKS** to all!

At the time of this newsletter publication, the drive continues through the end of March. Watch for final numbers in the May issue of the Talking Trinity.



Thank you
Art Lancaster,
Program
Coordinator

OU REACH COMMITTEE (previously Evangelism Cmte.)

It has been a difficult time during the pandemic to welcome new members or even stay connected to each other. During this time, we are looking for new ways to let people know about Trinity Presbyterian Church and ideas to attract new members. One focus has been on 21st street. Can you guess how many cars pass by the church every day? Do people know we are a church and that “everyone is welcome”?

The committee is trying to look at how people visualize our church as they drive past everyday. We are looking at options we have for our signage outside our church. We have wanted a digital sign sign for sometime but this is an expensive undertaking so we are looking at ways to make the current sign more useable until we can have a sign that lights up the street and let's the city knows about our messages.

It's hard to realize we have gone for a year and had very few church services or activities. The committee is imagining new activities when the pandemic is over to bring us back to worship together. We have people who are interested in joining our church, we have a new baby in our congregation, and we have lost members who have gone to their heavenly home that we have not been able to celebrate. Get your vaccines and wear your masks.

FROM THE TRINITY FINANCE COMMITTEE

You may recall in 2020 Trinity applied for and received approval for a Payroll Protection Program (PPP) Loan from the Governments first stimulus package. Trinity was able to use the PPP loan to pay our staff salaries for two months in lieu of using our budgeted pledge income as the pandemic started ramping up. Trinity submitted the appropriate documentation showing the loan was used for its intended purpose and we received approval the loan was forgiven by the Government.

The second round of the Federal Government stimulus package includes a provision for businesses to apply for a 2nd round of Payroll Protection Program Loans if certain criteria were met. We received word last week that Trinity's application was approved and we are administering the loan criteria as we did in 2020. I appreciate everyone on the Finance Committee as they assisted me in digesting all the loan details, crunching numbers, developing reports and putting the application together. I would also like to thank our friends at Silver Lake Bank for their help during the entire process.

Even though life may seem to be turning the corner with vaccinations and businesses opening up, the Finance Committee felt it necessary for Trinity's future to apply for another PPP loan since we are approaching the very early stages of the post-pandemic era. We continue to ask for God's guidance and wisdom as we navigate the pandemic mine-field while utilizing good sound business practices available to us. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out.

Michael K Hampton, Finance Chair.



Did you know you can do your favorite shopping on Amazon and also donate a portion of your shopping to a selected nonprofit organization? And, that Trinity could be that selected nonprofit organization? Here is how to select Trinity to receive that donation:

- Start all of your shopping on the website www.smile.amazon.com. Type in your amazon email address and password and click the “Sign in using our secure server”.
- You will be prompted to select an organization. Search for Trinity Presbyterian Church, Topeka Kansas. There are quite a few Trinity Presbyterian church's listed so make sure you find the one in Topeka Kansas. You will click on the “Choose” button.
- You can save this choice so every time you shop on Amazon using the smile.amazon.com website it will remember your charity.

There is no additional cost to you or to the church and there is also a Smile Amazon Prime. So as you shop, remember to start at www.smile.amazon.com to donate to Trinity. Any funds donated to Trinity will be put into the Pastor's Discretionary fund, and as of February 2021 the church has received about \$163.25 since we began this program. If you have any questions, please ask Carol Shannahan, Financial Secretary carolsbutterflies1@gmail.com or (785-559-8551)

LIVING GREEN LIVING GREEN LIVING GREEN



MORE WAYS TO BE BIRD FRIENDLY -

Avoid Pesticides!! More than 1 billion pounds of pesticides are used in the US each year. Even common weed killers used around homes can be toxic to wildlife. Birds are harmed by pesticides through direct contact, or by eating contaminated seeds or prey.



Pesticides also reduce the number of insects that birds need to survive and raise their young. You can help by making healthy choices each day - Purchase organic food and reduce pesticide use around your home. Make your own garden organic/ pesticide free!

You may have seen the article in our own Topeka paper on March 3 reporting that powerful insecticides are showing up in deer spleens in nearly every corner of remote and deeply forested Minnesota, with Neonicotinoids in 61% of them over the past 2 years. This raises concerns about reproduction and fawn survival.




We already know that these strong chemicals widely used on our agricultural lands and our residential lawns are devastating our pollinator populations across the continent. Remember that a year ago we advised you to watch the purchases you make at local big box stores as their plants usually carry this insecticide in the planting soil of the plants. Please remember this spring to purchase local plants from local Kansas providers.

PEACEMAKING COMMITTEE

Breaking news from Talpetates, El Salvador: Carmen and Anton have been communicating with each other every few weeks during this pandemic . As in Topeka, the school in Talpetates (and generally schools in El Salvador) went to a virtual learning platform last fall. Teachers that get their salary from the Trinity budget have continued to give and collect assignments from elementary students at the Talpetates school, and high school and college students and receiving and submitting work virtually thanks to scholarships from Trinity.

On March 15, Carmen reported “Hemos empesado los profesores a trabajar en la escuela estaremos toda la semana solo los maestros, porque el dia 6 de abril empesaremos a trabajar con niños.” Translated meaning, “The teachers have started to work at the school this week, only the teachers, because on April 6th we will start working with children (in person). Hallelujah!

Topeka JUMP (Justice Unity and Ministry Project)

**Get Ready Trinity! Your Invitation is Coming!**
Members of Trinity’s justice ministry, Topeka JUMP, will be issuing invitations to its Nehemiah Assembly. This year the assembly will be virtual and will be held on Monday, April 26th at 7:00. So, when your phone rings, don’t assume it is a telemarketer. It could be your invitation to the Assembly. Public officials, like Mayor Michelle De La Isla, will be present and JUMP will provide updates on some of its issue campaigns such as Affordable Housing, Transportation, Mental Health/Addiction and Predatory Lending.

**TOPEKA JUMP
NEHEMIAH ASSEMBLY**
**Monday, APRIL 26 7:00
(Virtual)**
**To hold our public officials
accountable. We will be pushing
for more affordable housing and
other important items**

Our faith challenges us to “do justice”. And, our justice ministry is the vehicle we can use to meet this challenge. This past summer, along with 27 other congregations in Shawnee County, we got the police to use a new strategy that will stop people from being gunned down in Topeka. Now it is time to tackle other community problems, like Affordable Housing. Your voice will be heard by attending the Nehemiah Assembly. So, say “YES” when you are invited to the assembly.

“What does the LORD require of you?
To do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” Micah 6:8

TOPEKA JUMP! JUMP FOR JUSTICE!

PRAYER CONCERNS as of Mar. 22, 2021

Audrey & Jacob Barnard & Marilyn Leinacker
Carol Shannahan
Carolyn Burns
Cheryl Lindstrom
Chuck Pullen
Craig Neuenswander
Doug Meenen
Helen Rhodes
Joyce Adcock
Jessie Zimmerman
John Eddy
Kay Wildman
Olive Ubel
Pam Oroke
Rose Fritz
Ruth Jenkins
Sally White
Our troops overseas
Ann Fincham's friend, Sam;
Becky Jones' friends, Janice
Pechacek & Cheryl Arney;
Becky Schooler's sister-in-law, Jill; Brad Stipcak's mother, Beverly; Carol Shannahan's friend, Janet; Carmen Raines' friend, Mark; Carolyn Burns' sister-in-law, Carol Jessop; Carrie & Art Lancaster's daughter, Grace Ray; Cathy Headworth's

aunt, Jniece Bell; Gerald and Joyce Adcock's Aunt Norma Jean; Iris Neuenswander's sister, Rosalee; Jaron Marcus' mother, Sherilyn; Kay & Ralph Howard's stepbrother, Max Hall, nephew in-law Doug; Kay Wildman's niece, Renee Wohletz; Lettie Karlson's friend, K.C.; Maddie Mellies' stepfather, Dave Leinweber; Marilyn Leinacker's daughter, Lisa; Mary Nestor's sister, Kay Fessler; Nelson Spaulding's daughter, Deborah Harris; Ruth & Jim Jenkins' 8-year old great, great niece, Kenzie, sister, Donna's grandson, Chase, friends JP & Peter; Toni Farrell-Higgins' mother, Loretta Farrell; Wendy Pullen's friend, Gerald Manchester; Zimmerman family



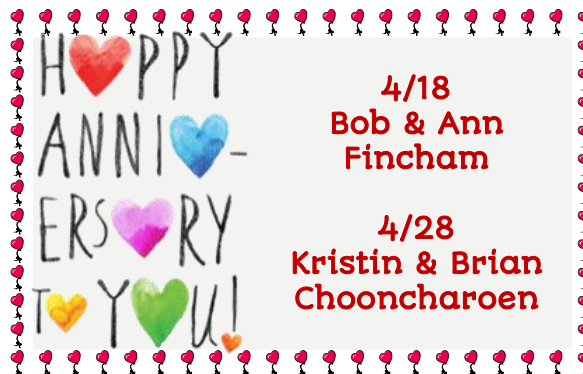
We are happy to arrive at Jace's free from cancer anniversary. He finished treatment on March 30, 2020, and has had clear, cancer free scans ever since. Thank you for all your prayers and support! Praise God!
The Raines Family



Dear Pastor Mere, Kathy Welch and Trinity Members,
Thank you so much for your overwhelming love and support. We are so appreciative of all the cards, letters, prayers, calls, meals and many other ways you have reached out and helped us through this difficult time. Your thoughtfulness has brought us joy in the midst of our sorrow. We are blessed by the members of Trinity.
Fern Freeman and Family.



02-Apr	Helen Rhodes
02-Apr	Kelly Kuhn
03-Apr	Dale Langley
04-Apr	Judg Williams
05-Apr	Craig Neuenswander
06-Apr	Henry Kemp-Pappan
12-Apr	Lillian Kemp-Pappan
12-Apr	Jacqueline Weber
12-Apr	Ken Cott
12-Apr	Dave Scheer Jr.
14-Apr	Anton Ahrens
16-Apr	Charlotte Williams
17-Apr	Carol Thomas
19-Apr	Karen Dove
23-Apr	Beverly Leonard
23-Apr	Marilyn Leinacker
24-Apr	Jeanie Wallace
24-Apr	Jeff Dolezal
24-Apr	Heather Hughes
26-Apr	Anna Ahrens
26-Apr	Pam Oroke
28-Apr	Lisa Smelser
29-Apr	Jacob Barnard
30-Apr	Melissa Oroke

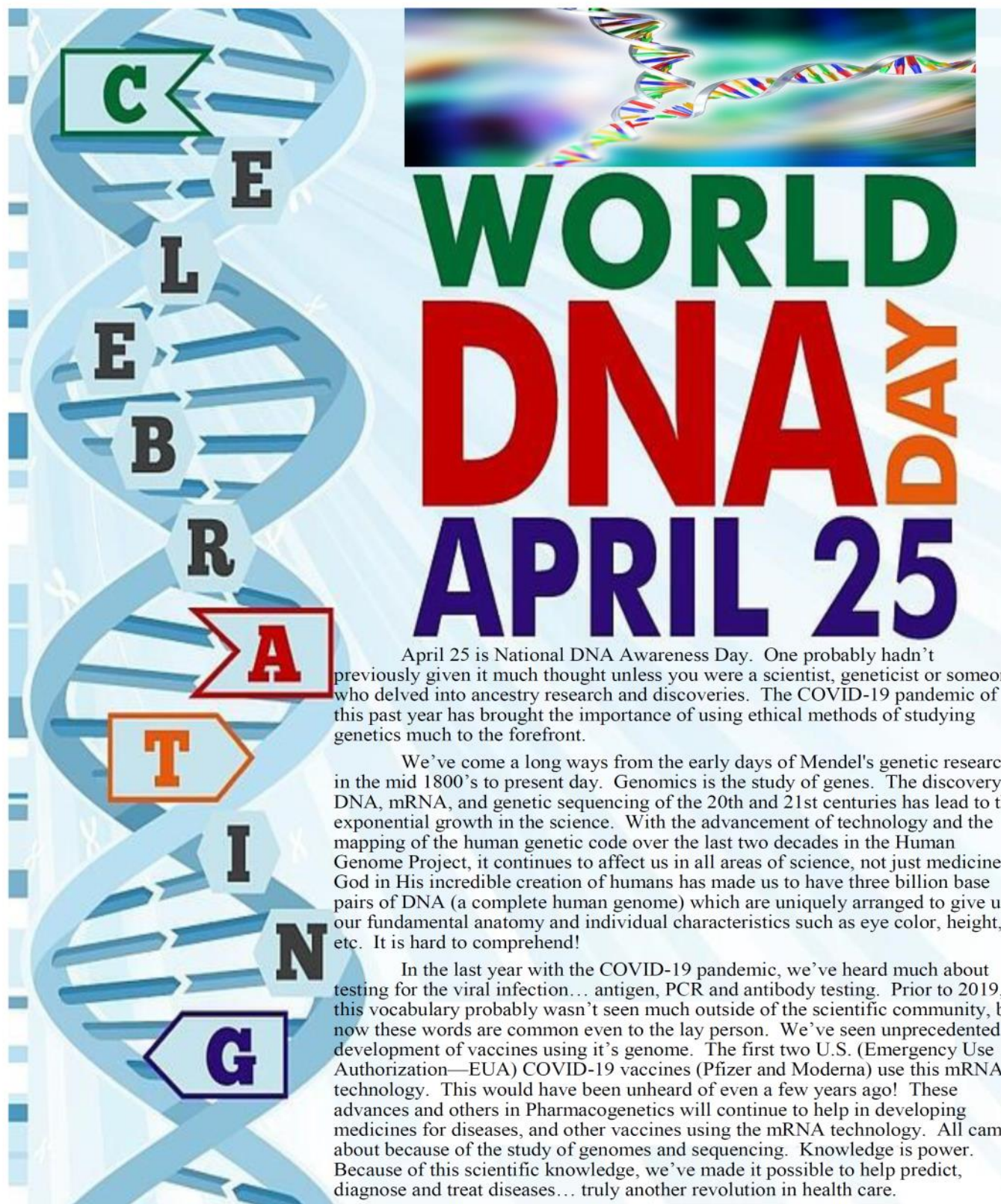


In Loving Memory



Ross R. Freeman
March 4, 2021

FROM THE PARISH NURSE



**WORLD
DNA DAY
APRIL 25**

April 25 is National DNA Awareness Day. One probably hadn't previously given it much thought unless you were a scientist, geneticist or someone who delved into ancestry research and discoveries. The COVID-19 pandemic of this past year has brought the importance of using ethical methods of studying genetics much to the forefront.

We've come a long ways from the early days of Mendel's genetic research in the mid 1800's to present day. Genomics is the study of genes. The discovery of DNA, mRNA, and genetic sequencing of the 20th and 21st centuries has lead to the exponential growth in the science. With the advancement of technology and the mapping of the human genetic code over the last two decades in the Human Genome Project, it continues to affect us in all areas of science, not just medicine. God in His incredible creation of humans has made us to have three billion base pairs of DNA (a complete human genome) which are uniquely arranged to give us our fundamental anatomy and individual characteristics such as eye color, height, etc. It is hard to comprehend!

In the last year with the COVID-19 pandemic, we've heard much about testing for the viral infection... antigen, PCR and antibody testing. Prior to 2019, this vocabulary probably wasn't seen much outside of the scientific community, but now these words are common even to the lay person. We've seen unprecedented development of vaccines using it's genome. The first two U.S. (Emergency Use Authorization—EUA) COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) use this mRNA technology. This would have been unheard of even a few years ago! These advances and others in Pharmacogenetics will continue to help in developing medicines for diseases, and other vaccines using the mRNA technology. All came about because of the study of genomes and sequencing. Knowledge is power. Because of this scientific knowledge, we've made it possible to help predict, diagnose and treat diseases... truly another revolution in health care.

Blessings in Christ,
Kathy Welch, Parish Nurse



April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Palm Sunday 8:45 AM ZOOM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL	29 2:00 PM STICKS 'N STRING ZOOM	30 9:00 AM Tuesday's with the Word via ZOOM	31 11:00 AM FREE SCHOOL LUNCH DISTRIBUTION AT TRINITY 1:00 PM Operation Food Secure FOOD DISTRIBUTION	1 PRAYER VIGIL starts 8pm to midnight 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday ZOOM Service	2 Good Friday PRAYER VIGIL continues 12:01am to 7am 1:30 PM Page Turners Book Study (ZOOM)	3 9:00 AM Terminex
4 8:45 AM ZOOM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM EASTER SUNDAY online worship service	5 2:00 PM STICKS 'N STRING ZOOM	6 9:00 AM Tuesday's with the Word via ZOOM 12:30 PM MISSION CMTE MTG ZOOM	7 11:00 AM FREE SCHOOL LUNCH DISTRIBUTION AT TRINITY 6:45 PM Esther Circle (P) lesson starts at 7	8	9 1:30 PM Page Turners Book Study (ZOOM)	10
11 8:45 AM ZOOM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL	12 1:30 PM Worship Cmte via ZOOM 2:00 PM STICKS 'N STRING ZOOM	13 9:00 AM Tuesday's with the Word via ZOOM 5:30 PM WORSHIP PLANNING TEAM - ZOOM	14 11:00 AM FREE SCHOOL LUNCH DISTRIBUTION AT TRINITY 1:00 PM Operation Food Secure FOOD DISTRIBUTION	15 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE	16 1:30 PM Page Turners Book Study (ZOOM)	17
18 8:45 AM ZOOM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL	19 2:00 PM STICKS 'N STRING ZOOM	20 9:00 AM Tuesday's with the Word via ZOOM	21 11:00 AM FREE SCHOOL LUNCH DISTRIBUTION AT TRINITY 7:00 PM SESSION (ZOOM)	22	23 1:30 PM Page Turners Book Study (ZOOM)	24
25 8:45 AM ZOOM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL	26 2:00 PM STICKS 'N STRING ZOOM	27 9:00 AM Tuesday's with the Word via ZOOM	28 11:00 AM FREE SCHOOL LUNCH DISTRIBUTION AT TRINITY 1:00 PM Operation Food Secure FOOD DISTRIBUTION	29	30 1:30 PM Page Turners Book Study (ZOOM)	1 9:00 AM Terminex

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

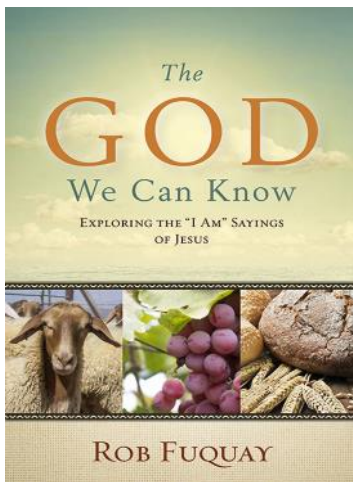


Are you asking yourself what does Adult Sunday School look like via Zoom?

Here is a brief overview of how we spend our time together on Sunday mornings!

- 8:35- Class opens for a time of fellowship
- 8:45- We start with a time of sharing joys and concerns followed by prayer
- 9:00- Facilitator begins with a combination of scripture, discussion and a short video
- 9:25- Meet in small groups for further discussion of the lesson
- 9:40- Meet together for final thoughts and closing prayer, ending by 10:00

Sunday School has a variety of components to help us study God's word, share and learn from each other and grow in our spiritual journey. We invite you to please come and join us on Sunday mornings.



Please join us in Adult Sunday School for our exploration of the "I Am" sayings of Jesus.

We are currently studying the book, The God We Can Know by Rob Fuquay.

This study will conclude on Sunday April 4th.

This Zoom class begins at 8:45 with sharing and prayer, but you can enter the Zoom any time after 8:35. Class will conclude by 10:00.

You are invited to join Adult Sunday school via Zoom every Sunday at 8:45. It's great learning and fellowship in a time where both can fill our hearts. If you are interested in joining us and getting a zoom invitation, please email Carol Thomas at ctmshm@gmail.com.



SPECIAL SPEAKER

APRIL 11, 8:45 - ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL (ZOOM)

Join us as we continue our focus of building and maintaining relationships in our homes, our church, and our community.

Michelle Voth,

executive director of PARS, and staff will share opportunities for us to be engaged in our community.

Shawnee Regional Prevention and Resiliency Services (PARS) is a not-for-profit, voluntary health organization committed to helping make our community a place where people of all ages are safe, connected with others, and free from the effects of crime and substance abuse.



PARS accomplishes its mission through Safe Streets, and the Prevention Services Department which houses an Evaluation program. Safe Streets works to create a healthier community by addressing substance abuse and crime through prevention education and citizen empowerment. The Prevention Services Department provides assistance and education regarding substances and related problem behaviors to youth, families, schools, businesses and the community. They also offer substance abuse evaluations and education for area youth as well.

SPRING SIX WEEK STUDY

APRIL 18 –MAY 23 ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL



We invite you to join us in Adult Sunday School to learn how Jesus shaped an uneducated, hardworking fisherman whose flaws included a quick-temper and impetuosity to become the leader of the apostles and missionary to the Roman Empire.

We will begin our six-week study of Simon Peter: Flawed But Faithful Disciple on April 18th. This study will be facilitated by Carrie Lancaster.

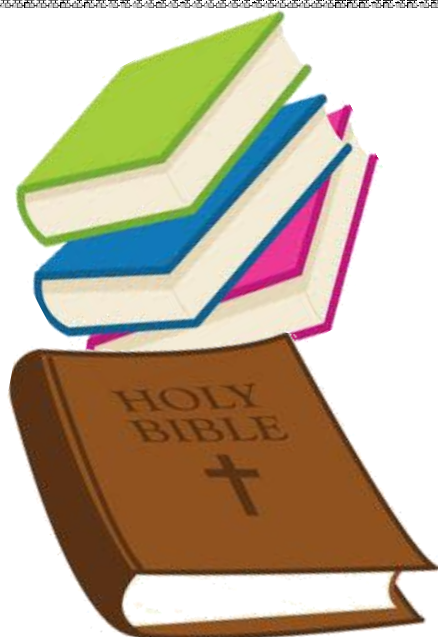
PAGE TURNERS BOOK STUDY

Join the Zoom meeting at 1:30 on Fridays. The new book we will begin studying soon is *The Book of Longings* by Sue Mont Kidd.

If you are interested in joining us and getting a zoom invitation, please email Carol Thomas at ctmshm@gmail.com.

TUESDAYS WITH THE WORD

Tuesday mornings at 9:00am. This is a Zoom fellowship and Bible study time with Pastor Mere. We use the Wired Word as a resource. Join us! Email Pastor Mere at Meredith@trinitypresbyterian.net to get a zoom invitation.





Trinity Presbyterian Church
4746 SW 21st Street
Topeka, Ks 66604-3592
785-272-2620

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**A WORD FROM TRINITY'S
WORSHIP COMMUNICATION TEAM:**

We are happy to report that the equipment for live-streaming worship ordered by our Visioning Committee has arrived! Installation will occur in early April in time for our return to in-person worship on April 25th.

Live-streaming will allow us to send video of our worship out to our online viewers in real time, so that they may worship with us. We will also provide a recording they can watch at their convenience.

You may notice some of the new tech as you return to the sanctuary. Several cameras will be mounted to capture the video. A couple of monitors will be mounted to assist the pastor and musicians who lead from the chancel or balcony. The sound room will be outfitted with the new equipment.

We are so pleased that Peter and Anton will be producing our livestream as this endeavor goes live! Trinity will be welcoming people to worship both in person and online!

