

Dear Members & Friends of Trinity Presbyterian Church,



As we begin to contemplate the Lenten Season that began Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, perhaps nothing offers us better direction on our Lenten journey than the words Jesus spoke to his disciples in Matthew 6 in which he said, *Give alms . . . Pray to your Father . . . Fast without a gloomy face.* (Mt. 6:1-18)

### **Almsgiving**

When we read of the giving of alms in the pages of Holy Scripture as Jesus teaches, we discover that it means the making of the needs of others our own, especially the needy of our world. For Jesus knows that they are all around us: children and the aged, the sick and suffering, families and individuals, next-door neighbors and people in lands far away . . . And Jesus knows how easy it is for us to forget them. Rather than looking out for ourselves as part of the community of faith, our giving involves some time, some of our talent, material resources, and whatever else that we can provide for the good of Christ's Church . . . Whatever we give, though, should be something of ourselves, something that costs us. For Jesus understands that the paradox of giving is that when we give, we receive some blessing from God in return . . . So, what shall we give to the needy in the Lenten Season? In deciding, we need, I believe, to decide generously. After all, before us is the great gift of alms Jesus himself gave: *He loved us, and gave himself up for us.*

### **Prayer**

The Lenten Season also calls us to pray. But prayer, Jesus teaches us, is much more than saying words. *Go into your room and close the door, and pray to your Father in secret.* Thus, it seems that before we pray, let us enter the inner room of our hearts. Let us shut the door to the noise, the trivialities, the countless cares of the day grabbing for our attention. Let us put them aside. In the quiet place of our heart, with faith as our guide, let us speak to God. Rest assured, a gracious Father listens, and he knows what we need. God helps us pray in this season . . . For those who have stopped praying, or pray with little fervor, God gives graces for praying again. And the amazing thing is that the graces come as we turn to prayers and practices already there: reflective reading of the Bible or some other spiritual books, the sacrament of communion, simple grace-filled prayers, like the Lord's prayer and the Psalms. *What a Christian should be doing at all times should be done now with greater care and devotion,* is what church leaders told Christians of the 6th Century who were beginning their Lenten observance.

# **GOOD NEWS OF TRINITY**

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**Lisa DeGraba, Director**

**Website: [www.dallastlc.com](http://www.dallastlc.com)**



**March 2023**

Likewise, what can we do this Lenten Season to pray with greater care and devotion? Participate in church services? Read the Bible or a spiritual book for a few minutes each day? Put aside time for quiet daily prayer?

## Fasting

Jesus tells us, *When you fast do not look gloomy*. To be sure, we all know that in today's consumer society people look upon fasting itself to be gloomy. Urging everyone to eat, drink, and buy more, our world today has made fasting unfashionable . . . Ye we know that the Gospel message says acquiring more and more can ruin human life. An acquisitive spirit is a selfish spirit. And as the alarming numbers of people addicted to drugs and alcohol today prove, the taste for too much can destroy . . . Food and drink, clothes and amusements - the good things of life - can turn into our captors, Jesus teaches. And so, in our acquisitive, pleasure-oriented society, fasting is a way of keeping ourselves free . . . During this Lenten Season, I suggest that recognizing the hold things have on us, perhaps we should try (with God's help) to keep them in their place. Some reasonable abstaining from food, drink, and entertainment can help us do that . . . If nothing else, today we have new and compelling reasons for taking fasting seriously. As the resources of our planet are increasingly threatened, it becomes clear that the human family (especially those living in affluent nations like ours) can no longer afford to be unlimited consumers. We must develop a leaner, less wasteful way of life, if our planet is to survive. Can the Christian perspective on fasting lead us to a gentler style of living on planet earth? Apparently, Jesus thought so . . . Thus, I suggest that we all take time in this Season of Lent to ***Give Alms, Pray, and Fast.***

Walking gently with you in this Lenten Season,

**Murray**

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The Women of Trinity are pleased to announce their next luncheon meeting on Thursday, March 23 at noon at the Irem Restaurant. Please sign your name on the sign-up sheet in the hallway if you wish to attend. All women of Trinity are invited to join us for food, fun and fellowship.

NOW ACCEPTING JEWELRY - The annual rummage sale is just around the corner. That means it's time to get your jewelry that you never wear out of your jewelry box and get it to Allyson Lord as soon as possible. Also, if you have any small jewelry boxes that you won't be using, bring them along too. Allyson will be accepting jewelry and small boxes until further notice. Thank you in advance for your donations.



**Trinity's next Confirmation Class will be** on Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 starting at 9:00AM, just prior to our regular Sunday morning worship service.



**Men's Club**

On Saturday March 11<sup>th</sup> @ 830 a.m. Lum's Fernbrook there will be a meeting. All men are invited and encouraged to attend.

**Deacons News:**



**Board Of Deacons: President – Beth Davis**

**Members:**

**Chuck Borland**

**Deb Cooper**

**Josh Coy**

**Megan Davis**

**Michele Steele**

**Kathy Stevens**

**Karin Thompson**

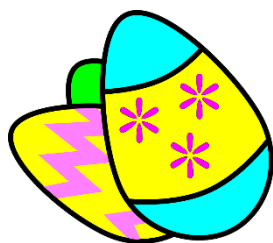
**Treasurer – Nancy Thomas**

**Deacon Easter Flower Sale-** Ordering Easter flowers feels like Spring is just around the bend. The Deacons are once again sponsoring the annual Easter flower sale. Order and dedication forms are available at the church on the Narthex table and from the Deacons on Sunday morning. Flowers are \$10.00 each and the orders are due Sunday March 5<sup>th</sup>. **Checks should be written to Trinity Board of Deacons;** cash is also acceptable. The flowers will be displayed at the back of the church on Easter Sunday and may be taken after Easter Sunday service.

Easter Food Donations – Starting Sunday February 12<sup>th</sup> the Deacons will begin collecting food to be donated to the Food Bank for Easter. Please put your donations of non-perishable food items in the blue container under the table in the hall, to the left of the sanctuary. Thank you in advance for helping the Deacons provide food for Easter to those less fortunate than we are.



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The Mission-Outreach Committee has decided to hold another "Easter Eggstravaganza" this year on Friday, March 31, 2023 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. We will be dying eggs with the children of our TPC families and the children of the Trinity Learning Center. It was very well received last year and we are going to do a repeat again this year! If you would like to help, we are seeking donations of cartons of eggs (you may hard boil them if you wish, if not we will boil them for you). Also, if you would rather donate toward the cost of eggs and would rather have us purchase them, there will be a donation receptacle on the desk in the hallway for your monetary donations. Not only are the kids invited, to this fun event, but the "kids at heart" as well. Mark your calendars and join us!

We hope you all experienced a good feeling in your heart, hearing that the 10,000 meals we packaged last November with the Rise Against Hunger group were recently shipped to hungry people in Haiti. The Mission-Outreach Committee has once again decided to undertake this same project this year and will be asking for your help. Although still in the planning stages, please put a SAVE THE DATE on your calendar for November 18, 2023. We have confirmed that date with the organizers of this event and will be getting out more information to you as the date draws near.

Planning Ahead . . .

The Mission Outreach Committee has decided to get a "Jump Start" on "Operation Christmas Child." You may recall we asked for donations of packed boxes at Christmas time last year for needy children in support of The Good Samaritan's Project. Rather than wait, we thought it might be better to spread it out over the months leading up to Christmas and by the time the supplies are needed to pack the boxes we will have the donations already accumulated. So - - - Each month you will see an item list in the bulletins and the Newsletter which you can donate on a monthly basis. There will be a receptacle underneath the desk in the hallway every month for your donations. **The items requested during the month of March are toothbrushes (toothpaste is not allowed), combs, hair brushes, bar soap and stick deodorant.** Please keep in mind these will be packed in boxes which are the size of shoeboxes, so nothing extremely large. We sincerely appreciate your kindness in giving, as we have so much and tend not to think of those young children who have so little.

**Fellowship Opportunity-** What's at the end of the rainbow according to the Irish? A pot of gold. What's at the end of the worship service on March 12<sup>th</sup>? Pots of soup...and bread and salad and dessert! It's not a potluck so everyone need not bring a dish to share. It's more like a soup-er reception or luncheon. If you would like to help out with the food items, please sign-up on the poster in the hall. Since we need only a few of each item when the sign-up spaces are filled, we have enough of that item. Planning to attend? Please sign-up so we'll have a chair for you. Invite a friend. Enjoy the fellowship. Hosted by Fun& Fellowship.

The Moosic Presbyterian Church, (where Jan Hunt is the commissioned Pastor), is sponsoring a Church Bus Trip to Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster for the production of "Moses." The bus will leave from their church at 7:30 a.m. on Sept. 26, 2023. The church is located at 625 Main St. in Moosic. The cost is \$165 per adult and \$120 per child ages 3 to 12. This includes the bus driver's tip, hoagie, beverage, the show and a lunch buffet at the Bird-in-Hand Restaurant. Full payment is due upon making your reservation. Payment can be made in cash or check (made payable to Moosic Presbyterian Church), and given to Barb Rinker who will get it to Pr. Jan Hunt. Plan ahead to see this amazing show.

**Thank you to Clarence Givens-** On February 12th we also had a "thank you" party for Clarence Givens (CPA) who has served our church as treasurer for many years. He has decided to leave that post of duty, but assures us that he will be available for any questions or other needed input. He indicated that he enjoyed the work at the church after his formal retirement from his accounting business.



Clerk of Session Art Peoples presented Clarence with a gift card from one of his favorite restaurants, J&J Deli. And Pastor Murray wrote and recited a clever "ode to Clarence" to everyone's enjoyment. Clarence thanked Karen Perzia for stepping up to take care of the books and our Administrative Assistant Nicole Fleschut for all of her help with the vast amount of paper work. In the photo, from left: Clarence Givens, Art Peoples, Pastor Murray Thompson.



**Annual chili cook-off at Trinity-** On Sunday, February 12th we held our annual chili cook-off at Trinity. Participants were, from left: Wayne Williams, Kathy Stevens, Beth Davis, Karin Thompson, Sherri Newell and Grayson McKinley.

And the winners by category were: meatiest - Grayson McKinley; beaniest - Karin Thompson; corniest - Beth Davis; spiciest - Kathy Stevens; and overall best - 12-year-old Grayson McKinley.

Congratulations to all!

**Flower Chart** There is a flower chart sign-up sheet in hallway for anyone wishing to honor a loved one. The cost is \$50 per week so please plan accordingly

March 5, 2023	Fleschut Family
March 12, 2023	
March 19, 2023	
March 26, 2023	

**Meals on Wheels~** If you would like to volunteer for Meals on Wheels on any open dates, please call Meryl Davis @ (570) 310-1556.



March 9, 2023	Windsor & Meryl Davis
March 23, 2023	Windsor & Meryl Davis
April 6, 2023	Windsor & Meryl Davis
April 20, 2023	Wayne & Marianne Williams

**2023 Per Capita** - The Per Capita for 2023 has been set at \$42.00 per person. The total is divided among the Presbytery - \$29.75, the Synod of the Trinity - \$2.40, and the General Assembly - \$9.85. Your support is greatly appreciated. Art Peoples, Clerk of Session



### March Birthdays

03/03	Emma Sgarlat
03/04	Stephanie Baines
03/05	Jane Miller
03/05	Grayson McKinley
03/05	Shirley Wolfkeil
03/06	Brandon Fleschut
03/14	Mary Morrison
03/15	Sandy Peoples
03/16	Leona Walter
03/17	Steven Newell
03/23	Dylan Pilger
03/24	Emily Jenkins
03/27	Elizabeth Stevens
03/30	Ken Jones

### April Birthdays

04/04	Cindy Mulloy
04/06	C. Don Kocher
04/06	Karin Thompson
04/08	Ella Fleschut
04/09	Mari Johnson
04/20	Nancy Williams
04/21	Carl Sgarlat Jr.
04/30	Jennifer Sgarlat



### March Anniversaries

03/28	Mike & Karen Perzia
03/29	Doug & Kathy Stevens

### April Anniversaries

04/03	Neil & Mary Morrison
04/10	Windsor & Meryl Davis
04/17	Michael Salvati & Beth Davis

**LITURGISTS** - The Session wishes to thank everyone who has volunteered to serve as Liturgists.

If you are interested in serving as a Liturgist, please check the poster on the bulletin board in the hallway and select a date. Rev. Dr. Murray is available to talk to anyone who has never been a liturgist but wants to give it a try.

March 5, 2023	Barb Rinker
March 12, 2023	Josh Coy
March 19, 2023	
March 26, 2023	

Nicole Fleschut, Administrative Assistant, will send you your material prior to the date you are scheduled to be the Liturgist.

Thank you, Art Peoples, Clerk of Session

## **Session Highlights**

**Session members: Arthur J. Peoples, Clerk to Session**

**Kristina Coy  
Sharon Davis  
Sherri Newell  
Karen Perzia  
Wayne Williams**

**Meryl Davis  
Ken Jones  
Sandy Peoples  
Barbara Rinker**

On February 19, 2023, the Annual Joint meeting of the Session and Board of Deacons was held at Trinity Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Dr. Murray Thompson led the joint meeting in a discussion regarding Trinity Presbyterian Church renewal strategies, 2023 – 2024 AD. The discussion included the “Five Overarching Goals for Trinity PC in 2023 AD and Beyond.” Following the joint meeting, the Board of Deacons and the Session, each broke into their separate groups to conduct their business. The following items were discussed and acted upon by the Session:

1. Elder Wayne Williams reported that the Building and Grounds Committee purchased a new vacuum for the church at a cost of \$200.00.
2. Elder Wayne Williams is searching for someone to patch the parking lot.
3. The Building and Grounds Committee is in the process of replacing the drawers in the kitchen.
4. Elder Wayne Williams will meet with Mark Chappell to discuss the chimes.
5. Elders Barbara Rinker and Karen Perzia are presently working on rewriting the Job Descriptions for the employees of Trinity.
6. On March 5, 2023 Communion will be by plate.
7. On Thursday, April 6, 2023, Maundy Thursday, communion will be served.
8. On June 4, 2023 we will serve communion by Intinction.
9. On March 25, 2023, following morning worship, the Session will meet with the parents and confirmants.
10. On April 9, 2023 we will hold two services; one at 7:00 AM – Sunrise and 10:00 AM with plated communion.
11. The Mission Outreach Committee:
  - a. On November 18, 2023 the church will sponsor the “Rise Against Hunger” program funded by the Mission Outreach Committee, and an application has been submitted to the Howorth Committee.
  - b. The Session approved an Art Show on March 23, 2023 conducted by the Trinity Learning Center.
  - c. EGG-Stravaganza, approved by the Session, will be on Friday, March 31, 2023 from 6-9 PM. The event will be open to TLC students and TLC families and their friends.
  - d. The Session approved the request from the Mission and Outreach Committee to jump start Operation Christmas Child.

Respectfully submitted, Arthur J. Peoples, Clerk to the Session



**Subscribe to our Email list for updates** - Be sure to be in the know about all that is happening at Trinity Presbyterian Church by joining our email list. Use the QR code next to this announcement to join (take a photo of it with a smartphone and the webpage will open) or go to <http://www.dallastpc.org/join-our-email-list>.

Trinity Presbyterian Church Building Use Calendar - The Session is requesting everyone who wishes to use the facilities at Trinity to schedule their events with Nicole Fleschut, Administrative Assistant. By phone: 570-675-3131

Or by email: [trinitypress@frontiernet.net](mailto:trinitypress@frontiernet.net). This will ensure that everyone has an opportunity to use the building for approved activities, and we won't have double bookings. Thank you for your support. Art Peoples, Clerk of Session



**Announcements** need to be either emailed to [trinitypress@frontiernet.net](mailto:trinitypress@frontiernet.net) by **Tuesday morning at 10 am** or written on one of the forms found on the bulletin board and deposited in the office. **Newsletter articles** need to be submitted to the church office by **March 29<sup>th</sup>**. They need to be emailed to [trinitypress@frontiernet.net](mailto:trinitypress@frontiernet.net) along with any images.

## **PRAYER CONCERNS**

### **Members of Trinity:**

Rich Burkhardt  
Tom Pickett  
Nancy Williams

Mary Chappell  
Jim Snyder  
Phil & Leona Walter

Meryl Davis  
Doug Stevens  
Shirley Wolfkeil

### **Friends of Trinity:**

Craig Berlew- Medical/blood pressure issues  
Katie DiSimone – Glioblastoma  
Sandy Goodwin – Dr. Curt Goodwin's sister  
Rita Groboski  
Carol Gumienny- Stroke- eyes & balance- Nancy Thomas's sister  
Michael Gusher Jr  
Barbara Jones – Betty Handley's sister  
Marge Kishbal  
Bill Morrison – poor health – Neil's brother  
Peter Stevens – Doug Stevens's brother – serious health problems  
Amy Wert – paralyzed from accident – daughter of Janie Millers co-worker  
Bonnie Zim – Fall- Allyson Lord's sister  
Richard Zim – Allyson Lord's brother-in-law

\*If any names need to be added or can be removed, please let Nicole know. Thank you.

**\*\*\* YOUR HELP IS NEEDED\*\*\***

Please help us ensure that Trinity's prayer list is current. We all need prayer and those on our prayer list surely benefit from additional prayer support. We will gladly keep them on the prayer list while they need additional prayers. We have five (5) names on our prayer list whom we do not know who requested they be added, and therefore can't check to see if they need to stay on the prayer list or can be removed. If you added any of the following names to Trinity's prayer list, please let Karin Thompson (570-332-5319) or Nichole (at the church office 570-675-3131) know that you are the person who added the name, and whether they need to remain on it or can be removed from the prayer list.

**Craig Berlew, Katie DiSimone, Rita Groboski, Michael Gusher, Jr. and Marge Kishbal**

In the future, when adding a name to the prayer list please let Nichole know who is adding the name, so that we can contact you when updating the prayer list, in order to keep it current. If at any point in time, someone you have added to the prayer list can be removed, please let Nichole know, so we can keep our prayer list current.

Thank you for keeping those on our prayer list in your prayers and thank you for helping us keep the list current.