



Dear Members & Friends of Trinity Presbyterian Church,

Since returning home from our recent overseas odyssey to visit many of the historic sites in both France and Italy, a number of you have been asking Karin and me about our trip, along with desiring to know what region we enjoyed seeing the most. Although every place we visited was of interest, I would say “hands down” the most beautiful area we had the privilege of seeing and embracing was Tuscany, Italy. It appeared to us as a virtual painting highlighted by all the pastel colors that God apparently deemed fit for this very special place on his world map. To give you a sense of what Tuscany is all about, I offer a brief summary below:

Tuscany

About Tuscany: an introduction to Tuscany, Italy



GOOD NEWS OF TRINITY

Trinity Presbyterian Church

P. O. Box 239

105 Irem Road

Dallas, Pennsylvania 18612

570-675-3131

Rev. Dr. Murray Thompson

Fax: 570-675-0691

E-mail:

trinitypress@frontiernet.net

Website: www.dallastpc.org
www.facebook.com/dallastpc

Trinity Learning Center
570-675-0689

Lisa DeGraba, Director
Website: www.dallastlc.com

 Thankful

November 2022

“Tuscany” is the name of one of the larger of the 20 Regions of Italy (similar to states in the USA and counties in the UK), and is located in northern peninsular Italy, bordering the Tyrrhenian Sea to the west. In Italian, Tuscany is *Toscana*, and its capital is Florence (*Firenze*, in Italian). Tuscany is roughly triangular in shape with an area of about 23,000 sq km (8,878 sq mi) and is divided into ten **Tuscan provinces**. It is surrounded and crossed by major mountain chains, and with few but very fertile plains, Tuscany is dominated by hill country so that, not surprisingly, the vast majority of its inhabited nuclei are the Tuscan hilltop towns and villages that are among the most interesting attractions of Tuscany. Its geography can best be understood in terms of the **valleys of Tuscany**, the majority of which are named after the rivers that formed them. Among the sights of Tuscany are its beautiful landscapes, its **Tuscan villas** and farmhouses, its **Italianate gardens**, its vineyards and olive groves, cypress trees and, above all, its rich artistic legacy and vast influence on European culture. A few cities of Tuscany, foremost among them being **Florence** and **Siena**, were the founts of the Italian Renaissance, and Tuscany was the home of some of the most influential men in the history of art, architecture, science, navigation, political thought and literature. Among them were Petrarch, Dante, Botticelli, Michelangelo, da Vinci, Galileo, Vespucci, **Verrazzano**, **Boccaccio**, Machiavelli and Puccini. Like all of the regions of Italy, Tuscany has a unique culinary tradition and is famous for its **Tuscan wines**. One of the most well-known facts regarding Tuscany is the magnificent statue of David, carved by Michelangelo, which stands in the city museum of Florence. It is stunning for all visitors to see. Tuscany is a special place that all should plan to visit during their travels abroad.



What more can I say? Obviously, God has blessed his world ever so richly in a place called *Tuscany*. *11 Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it.*

12 Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy. Ps. 96:11,12

In His Joy,
Pastor Murray



Women of Trinity – meeting highlights – October 21, 2022

Open with prayer

Greeting Card Ministry report – Betsy Fairchild

Fellowship of the Least Coin Offering – so far this year we have \$115.00. A check for that amount will be sent out before the end of the year.

Thank Offering – envelopes are available until mid-December. They are the blue envelopes on the table in the hallway. All women of Trinity are asked to participate.

Suggestions for monetary donations to five charities: Children's Court, St. Jude Children's Hospital, Shriners Hospital for Children, Dr. Greenwald's prescription assistance for cancer patients, and Ruth's Place. Approved last month. Checks will be sent out later this month.

Suggestions for a holiday project: approved last month - Samaritan's Purse – 12 shoe boxes and \$120 to pay for the shipping at \$10 each.

Bakeless Bake Sale – will be conducted in Jan. and Feb. 2023. Proceeds will go to the general fund (operating account) of the church.

Come Home for the Holidays - the women will host the Second Sunday Christmas reception on December 11th. Thank you to the women who signed up to bring the food and beverage, paper products, table cloths, and decorations.

Every month we pause for our thoughts and prayers for our members, their families, our country and our world.

All women are invited and encouraged to attend a Memorial Service for Linda Griffith, wife of our former Pastor Roger Griffith, on Sunday, November 6, at 12:30 pm. at the Second Presbyterian Church, Parsonage Street, Pittston.

November 12 – (Saturday) 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. - Rise Against Hunger – reminder to attend if able. It will be in the Miracle Building. See Barb Rinker with any questions.

November meeting – Wednesday, November 16th at noon at Sandy Peoples' house at 13 Noble Lane, Dallas.

December meeting — Wednesday, December 7th at noon at Allyson Lord's house at 537 Bodle Road, Wyoming.

From the Stewardship Committee - Save the date – Sunday, November 20th.

The Stewardship Committee would like to invite everyone to attend a special service of worship at Trinity on “Stewardship Sunday.” The service of the dedication of our time, talent and treasure will be followed by a luncheon in the Miracle Building. Join us as we celebrate our commitment to doing the Lord’s work at Trinity and to enjoy fellowship with one another. Please watch your mailbox and our church newsletter for more information about this very special day in the life of our church. The Endowment Fund has unanimously voted to financially support the stewardship luncheon.

Thoughts on our Fall Stewardship Campaign in a Nutshell: Time, Talent & Treasure

Time

Our time begins at birth and ends on this earth with death. For most, it is about 25,000 days. Our time is precious and cannot be stored up like grain in a barn. Once a moment passes it is gone forever. God wants all of us to reach heaven; that is why He created us and why He sent us Jesus. Our life on earth is a pilgrimage toward heaven. Each day, each week, each month and each year we must be progressive on our pilgrimage. We cannot do this unless we give some time to God.

- Through daily prayer, we develop a close personal relationship with God, sharing with Him our successes and failures, and asking for His guidance in our daily lives.
- Reading Scripture daily helps us reflect on God's word. It also tells of God's great love for us.

Assisting individuals and organizations is another way to share our personal time to the glory of God. We also show our love for Him by letting Christ use our feet, our hands, our eyes and our voice.

Your gift of time is unique, because you are the only one who can give it.

Talent

All of us have special talents or gifts, which are a sign of the power and majesty of God, who can do all things. These talents and gifts are not given to us just for our own use, but are given to us for the enrichment of the lives of others and so that we can serve God better.

The Apostle Peter in his first epistle tells us, "Each one of you has received a special grace, so like good stewards responsible for all these different graces of God, put yourselves at the service of others."

All of Christ's works need to be done in our parish and community. As you know, Christ is not physically present in our church to:

- Visit the sick and elderly
- Feed the hungry
- Teach those who want to learn
- Console the lonely and sorrowful
- Pray for the needs and to give a helping hand and a kind word

Christ depends upon each one of us to do these Spiritual and Corporal Works of Compassion in His name. That makes us co-workers with Christ in the Holy Works of Redemption. What a privilege!

Treasure

The Christian need to share our gifts of Treasure may be best illustrated by the well-known parable of the talents, Matthew 25:14-30, which speaks of a man preparing to travel to a far country. Before departing, he gives talents or money to his servants.

- The first servant receives five talents and works to build them into five more
- The second servant, who receives two talents, doubles their value as well
- But the third servant, who receives one talent, buries it

When the master returns, he praises the first and second servants, but he takes the one talent from the third servant because the servant was not a good steward of the money, having done nothing to increase its value. The lesson of the parable of the talents is that we are to make good use of material gifts given to us by God. To be less than frugal with our material goods is a sin. To do nothing with them is just as wrong.

When we do make the most of material possessions, Sacred Scripture points out two ways we can show our gratitude to God for his gifts.

- First, because God is the Giver, some percentage of what is received must be returned to Him as an act of gratitude. (The Old Testament people were expected to give a tithe of 10 percent. This practice is mentioned 39 times in the Old Testament and 11 times in the New Testament, so we know it is God's will that the practice be continued.)
- Secondly, there should be some sharing of our money and material goods with those in need in our family, community, and world. Cor. 9:1-15.

Your gift of treasure is a direct gift only you can give, for "It is in giving that we receive."

Sharing My Time, Talent, and Treasure with you in this great Harvest Season filled with God's Bounty,

Murray

Pastors Appreciation Month

We are pleased to recognize Rev. Dr. Murray Thompson during Pastor Appreciation Month. We are blessed to have him and Karin with us here at Trinity. His spiritual leadership has been an inspiration, and his pastoral care is appreciated by all of us.

Art Peoples, Clerk of Session



Charlie's Eagle Scout project is part of the trail improvements to the back of Trinity Presbyterian Church. Take a stroll down the trail and check out this awesome addition.



November

11/03	Richard Burkhardt
11/13	Kyle Borland
11/14	Kim Borland
11/15	Meryl Davis
11/22	Scarlett McKinley
11/24	Julie Sgarlat
11/29	Sloane Yurko

December

12/03	Lewis Baines
12/06	Sharon Davis
12/16	Kolbie Burkhardt
12/19	Jim Snyder
12/20	Erin Yurko



December Anniversaries

12/28	Wayne & Marianne Williams
12/30	Larry Rittenhouse & Michele Steele

Trinity Men's Club- Our November breakfast meeting will be held @ Lum's in Dallas on November 12th.



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

November 3, 2022	Windsor Davis	Meryl Davis
November 17, 2022	Walt & Susan Yeager	
December 1, 2022	Beth Davis	Meryl Davis
December 15, 2022	Windsor Davis	Meryl Davis
December 29, 2022	Beth Davis	Meryl Davis

Memorial Service for Linda Griffith

On Sunday, November 6, 2022 at 12:30 p.m., a Memorial Service will be held for Linda Griffith at the Second Presbyterian Church, Parsonage Street, Pittston, PA. All members of Trinity are invited to join Rev. Roger Griffith and his family in celebrating the life of Linda Griffith.

Art Peoples, Clerk of Session



The Mission Outreach Committee is once again hosting the Rise Against Hunger event on Sat., Nov.12, 2022 in the Miracle Building. We need at least 5 people to help set up at 9:30 that morning. All other volunteers should arrive at 10:30 a.m. We will be packing 10,000 meals and need at least 35

volunteers. Please invite your friends and relatives to help us with this very worthwhile project. Also, please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board in the hallway or on the link posted on line. Please see Barbara Rinker with any questions.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080844ADAD2FA7FF2-rise1>

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.

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

November 6, 2022	Sherri Newell
November 13, 2022	Wayne Williams
November 20, 2022	Josh Coy
November 27, 2022	
December 4, 2022	Barbara Rinker
December 11, 2022	
December 18, 2022	
December 24, 2022	
December 25, 2022	

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



November 6, 2022	Nancy Thomas
November 13, 2022	Betsy Fairchild
November 20, 2022	
November 27, 2022	Elaine Flint



Although we haven't even finished raking the fall leaves, the Mission Outreach Committee is already planning their Christmas project. They will be joined by the Women of Trinity in supporting the Samaritans Purse, "Operation Christmas Child." (This project has been done at Trinity in previous years).

Although more information will be forthcoming, you can research the project on their website, Samaritanspurse.org and click on Operation Christmas Child, if you would like to get started. This project involves filling shoeboxes with suggested items for age-appropriate children, however the deadline will be mid-November. Thank you in advance for your willingness to help a child by becoming involved in this event.

The items suggested for your donations for Operation Christmas Child sponsored by the Mission Outreach Committee have been placed on a poster board in the lounge. You will also find the list of items on the table in the hallway or given to you by the Deacons with your bulletin. You may donate any items on any of the lists. Please leave your donations in the corner of the lounge near the poster board. Deadline for donations will be November 10, 2022. Please see Barbara Rinker or any member of the Mission Outreach Committee with questions. Thank you for opening your heart to God's children.

Karin Thompson is welcomed as the newest member of Trinity

- On Sunday, October 23rd, Karin Thompson, wife of Pastor Murray, became the newest member of our church. We are all very pleased to have Karin join our Trinity family, and we look forward to sharing many opportunities to get to know her and for her to get to know us. Welcome Karin!

From left: Art Peoples, Clerk of Session; Pastor Murray, Karin Thompson.



Jessica Starcher returns to Trinity - On Sunday, October 23rd we were all pleased to welcome our soloist, Jessica Starcher, back to Trinity. And as a special treat for all of us, Jessica sang while holding her new daughter Grace Elizabeth who never made a peep the whole time. A big thank you to Jessica for her uplifting music which adds so much to our worship service.

DEACONS NEWS



Board of Deacons: Cindy Williams, President	
Linda Baines	Chuck Borland
Josh Coy	Beth Davis
Megan Davis	Allyson Lord
Karen Sassaman	Michele Steele
Kathy Stevens	Nancy Thomas

The Deacons will be collecting non-perishable food items starting now and ending December 18th. The food will be donated to the Back Mountain Food Pantry. The following food items are needed: peanut butter, jelly, canned vegetables, stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, canned fruit, gravy, instant potatoes, canned or bottled juice, rice or rice mixes, cereal, sugar, salt, flour, cake mixes, icing, canned tuna or chicken, coffee, tea, pie filling, canned soup, pudding & Jell-O mixes, spaghetti or tomato sauce, pasta, powdered drink mixes.

The Deacons are holding their annual Poinsettia sale; Orders are due by November 27, 2022. Red poinsettias are \$10.00 each. Please use the envelopes and dedication forms available from the deacons to order them. *Checks should be made payable to Trinity Presbyterian Church Deacon Account.



Deacon Red Poinsettia Flower Order \$10.00 per plant

Total Plants _____ Amount Due: _____

Given by: _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

**Checks should be made payable to Trinity Presbyterian Church Deacon Account.
Mail to Trinity Presbyterian Church P.O. Box 239 Dallas, PA 18612**

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

Session Highlights

Session members: Arthur J. Peoples, Clerk of Session

Mark Chappell

Sharon Davis

Sherri Newell

Barbara Rinker

Meryl Davis

Ken Jones

Karen Perzia

Wayne Williams

The regular meeting of the Session was held on October 17, 2022, at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Dallas, PA. The following items were discussed and acted upon by the Session.

1. Rev. Dr. Murray Thompson reported that during the month of September:
 - a. He visited three members, contacted five members and friends, sent eight letters to members, officiated at the funeral of Carlene McCaffrey who (Passed unto the Lord) on September 5, 2022 and made two visits to the hospital. In addition, he sent out 12 birthday and three anniversaries' cards.
 - b. Participated in the Stewardship Committee: 13 Sept. @ TPC / Time, Talents, Treasures
 - c. Prepared Pastor's Letter for the Trinity Newsletter
 - d. Assisted in the preparation of a Trinity Brochure (Trifold)
 - e. Vacation: 17 Sept. - 5 Oct. (France/Italy)
 - f. Participated as a part of the Committee on Ministry:
September 12, 2022
 - i. Interview: Rev. Lory Ryan for Mountain Top PC on September 14, 2022.
 - ii. Attended Regular COM meeting on 14 September 14, 2022.
 - iii. Presbytery – On September 12, 2022 participated in the examination of Rev. Lory Ryan for Mountain Top PC

2. Community: Tunkhannock American Legion – On September 14, 2022. Rev. Thompson was installed as Dennis Armstrong Post Chaplain.
3. Wake Forest University – Rev. Dr. Thompson was installed as a member of the prestige’s “Decorated Deacs” steering committee (Alumni organization of WFU Veterans in support of ROTC students and veteran students of the university).
4. On November 6, 2022, Rev. Griffith will be holding a Memorial Service for his late wife, Linda. The service will be held at the 2nd Presbyterian Church, Pittston, PA starting at 12:30 PM. All members of Trinity are invited. Rev. Dr. Murray Thompson will participate in the Memorial Service.
5. On October 23, 2022 Karin Thompson was accepted into membership of Trinity.
6. The Session approved holding a Church Joy Offering
7. On November 12, 2022, The Presbytery of Lackawanna will meet with the Presbytery of Lehigh at Camp Johnsonburg.
8. **Deacon’s Report:**
 - a. **Caring & Sharing:** The holiday food drive will continue to be collected until December 18th.
 - b. **Flowers:**
 1. The Poinsettias for Christmas will be sold for \$10.00 during the month of November.
 2. The church members have chosen to purchase their own flowers for the rest of the year. Linda Baines has made beautiful arrangements to be use by the church on Sundays when no flowers are available. Thank you, Linda Baines.
 - c. **New Business:**
 1. Veteran’s Day - Our Veterans will be notified that we will have a special service and reception in their honor on November 13th. We will have a list to sign up for what we would like to bring. Plan to come early to help.
 2. Christmas decorating will be Saturday, Nov. 19th starting at 9 a.m. All are welcome to join us for fun and fellowship.
 3. Samaritan Purse Operation Christmas Child: The session will donate \$100.00 toward shipping the boxes that the Outreach Committee are filling.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS (permanent)

a. **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE:**

1. The water leak in the basement has been repaired. The leak was in the copper tubing.

2. During the past two weeks the heating in the sanctuary has not been working. A special thank you to Newell Heating and Air Conditioning for making the appropriate repairs.
3. It is recommended that members of the congregation visit the Walking Trail designed and constructed by Zackery Coy as part of his Eagle Scout project. Thank you, Zackery.
4. It has been noticed that the lights are frequently on when no one is utilizing the church. Elder Mark Chapple will check on the installation of automatic on/off switches that are motion activated for the church.
5. Elder Chappell is coordinating with the electrical class at Johnson University to determine when members of the class will be available to finish the installation new efficient lighting in the church.
6. The Ring Door Bell has been installed and is working well at the church.
7. Chimes – The chimes are not being used on Sunday morning. Mark Chappell will meet with the Deacons and provide them with instruction on how to operate the chimes.

10. ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE: Sandy Peoples the Committee submitted the following report dated

September 30, 2022 regarding the portfolio values and account balances:

\$ 85,460.68	New Covenant Mutual Fund
\$ 152,808.39	Vanguard
<u>\$ 23,784.29</u>	Luzerne Bank checking account
\$ 262,053.36	Total of all accounts

11. MISSION/OUTREACH – Ruling Elder Barbara Rinker

- Rise Against Hunger is scheduled for Nov. 12, 2022
- Women with Children at Misericordia University– The Notebooks donated by Beth and Nancy were dropped off at MU.
- Trunk or Treat is scheduled for October 31, 2022 starting at 11:30.
- Tree Lighting in December, the Deacons will supply bird seed bags to hand out;
- Flu immunization Clinic – Vera Williams Supey, Pharmacist from Rite Aid was at our church giving flu and Covid Boosters shots on Sept, 22, 2022. Thank you to Vera Supey.

12. NOMINATING COMMITTEE – The Nominating Committee recommended to the Session that the size of the Board of Deacons be reduced from 12 to nine. The Session approved the recommendation of the committee and approved reducing the Board of Deacons to nine members effective January 1, 2022.

13. STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

- a. The Rev. Dr. Murray Thompson will preach stewardship sermons leading up to Stewardship Sunday on November 20, 2022.
- b. Following the worship service on November 20, 2022 a meal will be provided in the Miracle Building hosted by the Session and the Stewardship Committee. The Endowment Committee is financing the meal.
- c. Four, Minute for Stewardship presentations will be given prior to November 20, 2022

During the Sunday morning worship service.

- 1. October 23, 2022 - Time - Presentation by Michael Williams
- 2. October 30, 2022 - Talents - Presentation by Meryl Davis
- 3. November 6, 2022 - Treasurers - Presentation by Sherri Newell
- 4. November 13, 2022 - Summary - Presentation by Sandy Peoples
- 5. November 20, 2022 - Grateful Giving - Rev. Dr. Murray Thompson
- d. Rev. Dr. Thompson advised the Session that he would be celebrating Veterans Day on November 13, 2022.

14. **WORSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE:** Ruling Elder Sharon Davis

Confirmation classes will be taught by the Rev. Dr. Murray Thompson and the Elders. Below are the dates and program titles for the eight sessions.

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|---|
| a. November 27, 2022 | Session 1 | You are What You Wear
Rev. Dr. Thompson |
| b. December 11, 2022 | Session 2 | How Do You Spell Presbyterian |
| c. January 8, 2023 | Session 3 | Where is God When It Hurts
Elder Meryl Davis |
| d. January 22, 23 | Session 4 | Extravagant Love
Elder Barbara Rinker |
| d. February 5, 2023 | Session 5 | We've Got the Spirit – |
| e. February 19, 2023 | Session 6 | Can You Hear Me Now |
| f. March 5, 2023 | Session 7 | Going Out |
| g. March 19, 2023 | Session 8 | Grace and Gratitude |

Respectfully submitted,

Art Peoples, Clerk of Session