

GOOD NEWS OF TRINITY

Trinity Presbyterian
Church

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November 2023

Dear Trinity Presbyterian Church Family of Faith & Friends,



Empty stocks, drying maple leaves and the absence of apples in the beautiful Endless Mountains of northeastern Pennsylvania are signs of the times. In the words of the prophet, *the summer is ended, the harvest is past* and perhaps some would add *and we are not saved* (Jer. 8:20). Still, that is not the attitude these days. The empty stocks we see nestled on the small Pennsylvania farms of the Susquehanna River Valley are bound together in great barrel-shaped rolls, ready to be used by farm animals that so dot the hills of this part of God's earth. People spend brilliant sunny days looking at the remaining maple leaves celebrating their color. The absence of apples and red tomato plants in the farmer's fields is called harvest, a time for special thanksgiving. It is curious what happens to the obvious when the subtle meanings of the season's cycle put these days into perspective.

Moreover, noting the difficulty we have applying that subtlety to our lives is also curious. So often when we have emptied ourselves in some effort, we lament about tiredness, fatigue and overwork. When life moves toward the Fall of our years, we have difficulty capturing the beauty, color and meaning they can hold. Whenever death vacates a place in our circle that is viewed with defeat and despair. The cycle of the seasons seems applicable – even creative – when we think of empty corn stocks, drying maple leaves and the russet-colored mountain meadows. Nevertheless, as we become involved, the result is often all too melancholy.

The Gospel thankfully addresses these human concerns. It teaches us the wonderful joy of having emptied oneself in loving commitment. It rejoices in the wisdom and beauty of years that have gained insight and experience. Of course it celebrates death not as a conclusion, but rather as a transition. That is why at the beginning of the month of November, All Saints' Day appears on the Christian liturgical calendar. That is what Revelation means when the gospel writer John voices *death shall be no more* (Rev. 21:4). So let us live meaningfully all the days of our lives my dear Trinity friends and neighbors in Christ.

Rejoicing in the season of life with you,

Pastor Murray



Women of Trinity - October report

The women did not meet in October. We will resume our regular meeting schedule for November and December.

Greeting Card Ministry – Betsy Fairchild continues to reach out to those in our congregation who look forward to and welcome cards being sent to their homes in times of need.

On October 15 the women placed a check for \$850 in the offering plate which represented the proceeds of their recent Bakeless Bake Sale Fundraiser. It was deposited in the church's general operating account to help with current expenses.

The women will also participate in the Presbyterian Women Thank Offering in November and December. There are blue offering envelopes on the table in the hallway, and they may be placed in the offering plate between now and the end of the year.

Second Sunday reception: The women will host their annual Christmas reception following the worship service on December 10th – “Come Home for Christmas.” All are welcome to remain after the worship service to visit with friends and family and to enjoy some holiday treats.

We continue to extend our thoughts and prayers to our members, our families, our country and our world.

Upcoming meetings:

November meeting: 15th – (Wednesday) at noon at Lum’s in Dallas.

December meeting: 6th - (Wednesday) at Allyson Lord’s “Christmas house” at noon.





Help us help others- the Mission/ Outreach Committee has scheduled. We are packing with the Rise Against Hunger organization again this year. We will begin packing meals on Saturday, November 18, 2023 in the miracle building beginning promptly at 10:00 AM. We are also looking for a few people to help set up at 8:45 AM that morning. We should be done by 12:30 PM. Please invite your family members, friends, neighbors, and anyone who you know might be willing to help us in this endeavor. There will be a sign-up sheet in the hallway and you can also sign up online using the link below. Thank you for giving up just a few hours of your time for this worthy causes. Any questions, please contact Barbara Rinker.

<https://rah.my.salesforce-sites.com/events/homepage?id=7013Z000002L5kqQAC>



Mission Outreach is sponsoring a Cookie Exchange – Sunday, December 3rd immediately following worship. Not enough time to bake more than one kind of cookie while wishing you could have a variety of cookies for the holiday, festivities. Well, you can have that variety of cookies simply by baking 60 small cookies and bringing them to our Cookie Exchange!

Here's how it works. Everyone attending brings 60 homemade cookies (no store bought please). The cookies are displayed on a table, you are given a box and you take some of each kind of cookie. How many of each kind will depend on how many attends. You will take home several different kinds of cookies for a total of 60. And you had to bake only one kind of cookie!

If you are "cookie challenged" when it comes to baking perhaps you could team up with someone and bake together. Or if you want to attend but are unable to bake perhaps you can ask someone to bake cookies for you. It's a great way to bake once and end up with a variety of cookies.

Along with your cookies please bring a copy of the recipe and perhaps a story about them (e.g. This is my grandmother's recipe and Christmas wouldn't be the same without them, etc.)

So sign up on the "Cookie" in the hall and indicate the kind of cookie you will be bringing, (no duplicates, please). Bar cookies are fine but please have 60 pieces to share.

To off-set all of this sweetness some savory snacks will be available along with coffee and tea. (you may sample your cookies if you lack the will power to wait till you get home)!



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.



Trinity Presbyterian Church Plans Soup Sale and Basket Raffle

Trinity Presbyterian Church in Dallas is planning to sell chicken noodle soup, vegetable beef and cream of broccoli soup by the pint (\$5) and by the quart (\$10) on Dec. 2, 2023 from 2 to 5 p.m. Pre-ordering is suggested by calling the church office (570) 675-1313 or on the church's Facebook page. There will also be a basket raffle held at the same time.

Seen below are planning committee members, bottom photo l to r: Cindy Williams, Rev. Murray Thompson, Alice Kocher, top photo l to r: Nancy Thomas, Kristina Coy, Karin Thompson, Don Kocher and Karin Perzia

The Frank Linden Howorth and Margaret Jones Howorth Memorial Fund Report

The Howorth Fund Committee has completed its disbursement work for 2023 and is pleased to report to the congregation the donations made to Trinity programs and projects:

\$1,800 - Deacons - Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter food gift cards for Back Mountain families in need.

\$2,000 - Our music program - soloists

\$1,600 - Finish the parking lot repairs

\$ 250 - Presbyterian Women's Synod Retreat Participation

The complete list of donations made from the Howorth Fund will be itemized in the 2023 Trinity Presbyterian Church Annual Report.

Endowment Fund Report

The Endowment Committee, with the approval of Session, has made three disbursements this year:

\$15,000 - to Trinity to help with operating expenses

\$ 2,000 - to the Back Mountain Food Pantry to help our neighbors in need

\$ 500 - to the Red Cross to help with the devastation in Maui, Hawaii

We are very fortunate to have this resource to help our church, our community and our world.



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 11th.



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 2, 2023	Windsor Davis & Meryl Davis
November 16, 2023	Walt & Susan Yeager

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.

November 5, 2023	Sherri Newell
November 12, 2023	Barb Rinker
November 19, 2023	Karin Thompson
November 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

DEACONS NEWS



Board of Deacons: Beth Davis, President	
Chuck Borland	Deb Cooper
Josh Coy	Megan Davis
Michele Steele	Kathy Stevens
Karin Thompson	Nancy Thomas, Treasurer

We will continue the tradition of collecting food for the food pantry during the holiday season... now through December 17th., please donate nonperishable food items that will be delivered to the Back Mountain food pantry. One delivery will be made the week before Thanksgiving and the second one will be right before Christmas. If you don't feel like shopping, monetary donations will be accepted. They will be added to the monetary donation the deacons will be making.

Please keep in mind that the deacons do have a few activities through the year that include asking for money. We do not expect every person to participate in every activity. Please choose what activities work for your interests and budget.

Thank you very much for helping us serve our community. The Deacons...

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.

2024 Per Capita

The Per Capita for 2024 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 to the Session

Session Report

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

The regular meeting of the Session was held on October 24, 2023, at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Dallas, PA. The following items were discussed and acted upon by the Session.

1. The Session approved the wedding of Michelle Scionti and Robert Bruno during the month of May 2024.
2. The Board of Deacons will host a Veterans Day reception on November 12, 2023.
3. The Board of Deacons will be decorating the church for Christmas on November 26, after church. This date may be changed as we get closer to Christmas.
4. The Endowment Committee reported that they transferred \$15,000 from the Endowment Fund to the Trinity Presbyterian Church 2023 General budget.
5. The Endowment Fund will sponsor the Stewardship dinner on November 19.
6. The Session approved the 2024 Operating Budget of \$156,960. The Endowment Fund will be asked to provide \$15,000.00 to the 2024 budget to help with the short fall.
7. THE FRANK LINDEN HOWORTH AND MARGARET JONES HOWORTH MEMORIAL TRUST has disbursed \$15,000.00 during this year. A number of churches activities were recipients.
8. The Mission/Outreach Committee reported the following:
 - a) RISE AGAINST HUNGER is scheduled for November 18, 2023.
 - b) JUMP START OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: Inventory of items on hand was taken and a list of needed items was compiled to determine what we will need to prepare 30 boxes.

- c) HAWAIIAN WILDFIRE COLLECTION: The collection is still ongoing. The Deacons have collected \$643.
 - d) On October 30, 2023 the Mission Outreach Committee will hold a Trunk or Treat at Trinity. Decorating of trunks will start at 8:45 AM and finish by 9:30 AM.
 - e) NOVEMBER 5: Samaritan's Purse – The Committee will pack all boxes to send. Five boxes will be packed but remain open to be blessed by Rev. Thompson on November 5, 2023.
9. The Stewardship Committee will hold a Stewardship luncheon on November 19, 2023 following the morning worship service as part of our 2024 Stewardship Drive. Stewardship letters will be sent to all members prior to November 19, 2023.
 10. The Trinity Learning Center reported student enrollment at 38.
 - a) **TRUNK OR TREAT** will be held on October 30, 2023 starting at approximately 10 am in the back parking lot. This project is sponsored by the Outreach Committee.
 - b) **FLU SHOT CLINIC** was scheduled 9/20 or 9/27, based on the availability of Rite Aid. The Clinic is available to TLC members and staff and also all members of the congregation.
 11. The next Presbytery meeting will be held on November 18, 2023 at Johnsonburg, NJ. The Rev. Dr. Thompson will represent Trinity at the meeting.
 12. The Women of Trinity donated \$850.00 to the General Operating Fund of Trinity. They will also host the "Come Home for Christmas" reception on December 10, 2023.
 13. **HELPING HANDS COMMITTEE**- The committee has the following activity scheduled.
 - a) Soup Sale – The committee will host a Soup Sale and basket raffle on December 2, 2023 at Trinity. Soup will be sold for \$5.00 per pint and \$10.00 per quart.
 14. The Session approved Rev. Thompson's request to conduct a study of the first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy (Pentateuch). The dates for the Bible Study will be announced later.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur J. Peoples, Clerk to the Session

Trinity Presbyterian Church

*Everyone is invited to attend our
Stewardship Worship Service
and Sunday Dinner at Trinity
on November 19, 2023.*

*Come and enjoy a ham dinner
with side dishes, rolls and butter,
dessert and beverages and
sponsored by the Endowment Fund*

*If you wish to attend, please register your reservation on the orange
sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway
or call the church office by November 14.*

*Watch for a stewardship letter and pledge card
from the church in early November and
prayerfully consider your commitment to
God's work here at Trinity.*

