

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Loving God | Growing Together | Serving the World

Trinity Presbyterian Church

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The Session

<u>Class of 2020</u>	Ann Douglas Sandra Hollensead Betty Muse
<u>Class of 2021</u>	Marc Bushue Bert Lundstrom Bonnie Mullin
<u>Class of 2022</u>	Ron Dawson Amy Elder Carol Hartmann

The Deacons

<u>Class of 2020</u>	Judith Bloor-Brandt Bill Husband Brenda Miller
<u>Class of 2021</u>	Jill McCullough Rebecca Perry Carol Redd
<u>Class of 2020</u>	Kay Hardy-Hines Sandy Koukola Marty Johnson

The Staff

Pastor	Rev. Steven Jewell
Christian Education	Janice Kim
Faith & Art Center	Candy Wheat
Music Ministry	Melissa Weaver
Secretary	Sherry Pritts
Financial Secretary	Tanya Turner
Pianist/Organist	Won Joo Ahn
Youth Handbells	Doug Harville
Preschool	Elizabeth Bodine

Giving Thanks In All Circumstances

By Pastor Steve Jewell

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Giving Thanks Amid Great Pain

This year, November is a month filled with a whole spectrum of events. As God's people, we begin the month by remembering our brothers and sisters in Christ who have entered into the glory of God's presence in heaven. Then, as Americans we fulfill our civic duty of participating in the political process by casting our vote during this election cycle. Next, we pause to give thanks for our bountiful blessings over a Thanksgiving feast. Lastly, we close this long month with our annual journey to the manger on the first Sunday of Advent. Over all of this hangs the bleak clouds of a global pandemic that has crippled our economy, stifled our way of life, and hindered our ability to enjoy the close, personal fellowship of one another.

With the uniquely varied highs and lows of this year, and especially this month, how can we possibly experience and express authentic gratitude? A quick review of the history of Thanksgiving might quicken in us an overwhelming and overflowing sense of gratitude, even amid our present hardships.

Briefly Recounting the Origins of Thanksgiving

Surely, you know the historical lore and tradition surrounding the origin of Thanksgiving. Pilgrims and native Americans, friendship and cooperation, a pilgrimage seeking political peace and religious freedom, hardship turned to hope as European sojourners found a new home in the "new world".

The first Thanksgiving, as most of us were taught, took place in 1621. During a three-day festival, fifty Pilgrims and ninety





November Birthdays

Ali Elder	11/1
Mardi Crosser	11/3
Amy Elder	
Nicki Wheat	
Betty Muse	11/5
Chris Hall	11/6
Aston Wheat	
Josh Latham	11/8
George Stone	11/13
David Douglas	11/15
Jerry Pender	
Jennifer Hacker	11/17
Kenny Hines	
Charles Niemann	11/18
Stella Maslowski	11/20
Sheri Bushue	11/22
Andy Cannava	
Suzanne Lundstrom	
Sheryl Oyler	
Zachary Watts	
Carol Redd	11/23
Kaycee Morgan	
Scott Lundstrom	11/24
Stephen McCreary	11/26
Rev. Bob Williams-Neal	11/27
Lila Maslowski	11/29

November Anniversaries

Matt & Rebecca Perry	11/8
Steve & AJ Kratt	11/16
Jim & Elizabeth McDaniel	11/24
Bill & Janet Husband	11/26
Steve & Cathy Conn	11/27

Wampanoag Indians gratefully celebrated the harvest together over a meal of wild game and seafood, along with pumpkins and cranberries (although, not the pumpkin pie or cranberry sauce we're used to!). While most people nostalgically identify this as the first Thanksgiving, the first recorded Thanksgiving actually took place eleven years earlier under much different circumstances.

After the brutal winter of 1609, the 409 people of the Jamestown Settlement on the coast of Virginia had been reduced to sixty survivors. Members of this community resorted to almost unthinkable acts to survive the harsh conditions. Those who did survive this horrific winter prayed for help, not knowing if or when or how relief might come. When help did finally arrive in the form of a ship filled with food and supplies from England, a prayer meeting was held where those sixty settlers poured out their hearts in thanks to Almighty God.

This desperate response of worship by the remaining members of the Jamestown Settlement is the first recorded Thanksgiving. Their gratitude was born out of tragedy, hardship, terrible anguish and loss. Perhaps these circumstances, rather than the caricatured bounty we're used to thinking about, are the truer conditions out of which our thanks to God ought to flow.

Jesus: the Author and Anchor of Our Gratitude

In verse quoted above, we are commanded to "give thanks in all circumstances". This includes situations or seasons that are plentiful or lean, those that are filled with gain or loss, paths we walk that are easy or hard. This means that our relationship with Jesus, not our circumstances, determines the attitude of our heart, the acclamations of our mouth, and the altitude of our hope. Just as the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases (see Lamentations

3:22-24), so too must we continue to trust in the Lord with all our heart, and lean not on our own understanding; in all our ways depend on Him, for he makes our paths straight (see Proverbs 3:5-6).



Everyday this month, I challenge you to come up with at least one thing for which you are grateful to God, then pray your gratitude to the Lord. For a grateful heart is grace-filled heart.

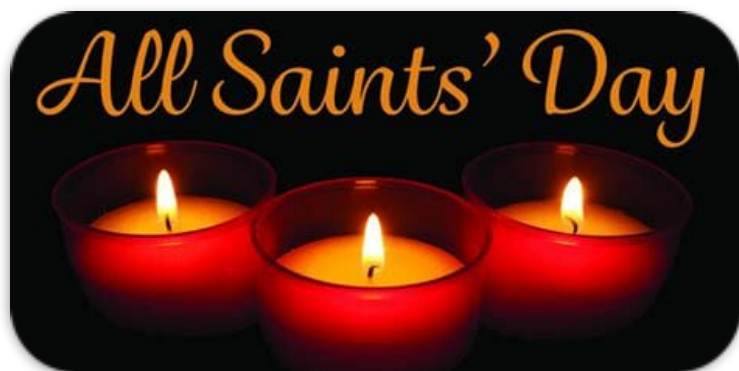
Gratefully in Christ,

Pastor Steve

ALL SAINTS DAY

Remembering those of the “great cloud of witnesses”

During our service of worship on November 1, we will take time to especially remember and celebrate the lives of many beloved church members and friends who have entered into their eternal inheritance in Christ. Those we have lost and Jesus has gained are:



Hana Duzdar (12/27/2019)
 William Carter Hambleton, Jr. (2/22/2020)
 Lynda Hale (4/16/2020)
 Michael Stevens (4/23/2020)
 Jeannette Brooks Priebe (5/30/2020)
 Harry Bernard Frye, Jr. (6/29/2020)
 Dorothy Inez Blair Williams (7/21/2020)
 Elizabeth E. Wilborn (9/28/2020)
 Richard L. Ross (10/4/2020)
 Dr. William McDaniel (10/5/2020)

*“If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself,
 that where I am you may be also.”*
 (John 14:3)

2020 TPC Poinsettia Order Form

TPC will continue to have the traditional display of poinsettias for the Christmas Eve service at 7pm this year. Poinsettias, red or white, may be ordered now through Friday, December 11. The cost is \$9.00 per plant. Checks can be made payable to Trinity Presbyterian Church (indicate “poinsettia” on the memo line).

Options for purchase:

1. If you are in attendance at a church service, please fill out the information below and drop the form, with check, in the offering plate.
 _____ Red _____ White (indicate number of color choice)
 Given by _____
 In Memory of _____
 In Honor of _____
2. You may fill out this form and mail it to the church with payment.
3. You may call in or email your order (with the dedication) to Sherry Pritts at church. Mail in your payment.
4. You may text, call or email your order (with the dedication) to Cathy Conn (502-727-7872, cat_conn911@bellsouth.net). Mail in your payment.

As we approach Christmas Eve, we will give out information on pick-up of the poinsettias.



As Christ's disciples, we are made for community. This community is where our love for Christ is deepened, our faith in Christ grows, and our lives are offered in service of our neighbors and the nations.

As we adjust to the current circumstances, many of our discipleship groups are still on hold. However, some groups have started meeting again. For more information, consider "doing life together" by joining one or more of the following opportunities.

Opportunities for Children

Christian Education "Kits"

Unfortunately, the youngest of our church community are those who are most disrupted by the quarantine. Much prayer and discussion has taken place on how to best care for and encourage families in growing their children in their love for Jesus.

Presently, we are working on a few ideas. Here are a few things that are in the works:

1. A children's message in worship service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. This message will take place in the first fifteen minutes of our services.
2. At-home kits for parents and children to work on together to feed the souls of our young people with the Word of God.

If the Lord puts an idea on your heart, please let Janice Kim know. We will gladly see if we can make it work.

Opportunities for Youth

Youth Online Worship

All young people are invited to join the weekly online worship service hosted by Janice Kim via YouTube.

For more information, please contact Janice, and she will gladly get you connected to this dynamic time of worship.

Adult Educational Opportunities

Koinonia Sunday School Class

This group studies, prays, and grows together in *koinonia* (Greek for "community"). The current study is an in-depth survey of church history. This class meets on Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM via Zoom. Contact Pastor Bob Williams-Neal for more information.

Women's Sunday School Class

This class brings women together to support one another in building their faith in Jesus Christ. This is a fun-loving group of women who enjoy studying God's Word together. This class meets on Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM via Zoom. If you would like more information, please contact Barb Sheeler.

Small Group Opportunities

The Quest

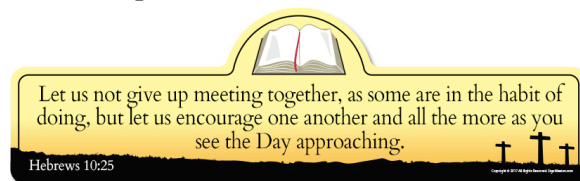
Those who are young, and young in heart, are invited to join in the quest of growing in Christ through the study of God's Word and the fellowship of mutual encouragement. This group meets via Zoom on Sunday mornings at 10 AM.

Sunday Evening Seekers

This is a casual group of believers who gather on Sunday evenings at 7 PM to engage with God's Word, to encourage one another in Christ, and to enjoy the fellowship of other believers. For more information, please contact Pastor Steve.

TPW (Trinity Presbyterian Women)

This group meets the second Tuesday of the month, September to May, at 10:30 in the Parlor. Everyone brings a small bag lunch, while sweets and coffee are provided. Along with Bible study, these ladies share life together. Masks and socially distanced seating is provided. Call Sandra at (502) 593-4014 for questions and more information



2021 Lent Devotional

This year has certainly been one of faith challenges and growth. How has the Lord been moving in your life? What have you experienced during this unprecedented time of virus, political upheaval, racial tensions and emotional weariness?

At Trinity, one of the things we have done in past years is to create and share a devotional book for the Lenten season. This year, from March 2020 through the remainder of the year, you will have experiences to share in light of the life, times and sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ. This has the potential to be one of the most impactful devotion booklets we've ever done, as we share together how our faith has been tested, maybe strengthened in what we've been going through.

Please consider writing a short devotion about this. As in the past, choose Scripture that speaks to you, share something about how the Lord has used that Word and Lent to bring you closer to Him, challenged you to more action for Jesus, or prompted you to reprioritize life. End with a short prayer.

Submit your devotional to Jude Bloor-Brandt. Email is jjbloor@att.net. Or you can place a copy in Jude's box in the church office. Production of the booklet will begin in early January so you have a few months to work on this!

Thanks for sharing with us all how the Lord is working even in the midst of a pandemic.

MISSION UPDATES

The Burrito Riders

Thank you to our Trinity family and friends who made this collection a success! During the pandemic, supplies of burritos for the homeless has been running short. So, be on the lookout for another drive very soon.

Maryhurst

Many of you remember the good time we had last year at the Trunk or Treat at Maryhurst. Since that event could not take place this year, Maryhurst is putting together a fall festival and wants to make it as fun as possible for the girls with all the restrictions still in place. We volunteered to provide Halloween treat bags which started as a Committee initiative but when several of our church family heard what we were doing, they were thrilled to contribute which made the mission an overwhelming success! In some of the bags, we packed candy while others were filled with non-candy goodies. We even donated journals, a gift many of the girls treasure. Note the encouraging messages on the adorable bags! At the time of this writing, Maryhurst has not yet held their event, but the staff was overjoyed with the outpouring of love!



We also want to let you know, as Christmas is rapidly approaching, that we will again be participating in Maryhurst's gift program. As stated by Maryhurst, "in a year that has been so unforgettable we are hoping to make this holiday season one our children can and want to remember!" We will provide more information soon on this program as gifts will need to be dropped off to Maryhurst the week of December 14th – December 18th. Thank you for considering helping in this journey of hope!



Operation Christmas Child

Check out the gifts and supplies in classroom #6 downstairs that have been accumulated for packing into our Trinity shoeboxes! Can you imagine the blessings for the children who will receive the boxes? God is good!

The Mission Committee has structured our box packing party differently this year for social distancing and safety but the task at hand remains the same ... and we need your help! We are offering one-hour time slots for packing boxes on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday or Sunday from October 31st through November 15th. Other days are available upon request. The schedule is posted on the Mission bulletin board and Sherry can also help you sign up for dates and times. In the past, we've packed about 250 boxes. We are hopeful and prayerful to maintain that number again this year. Now more than ever children around the world need hope and love!



Did you know that Samaritan's Purse offers the ability to track boxes to see what country they have been delivered to? It's always an exciting time when we are provided that information! If you would like to track the delivery of your personal boxes, go to the Samaritan's Purse website and look for "follow your box" ([click this link](#)). You can make a \$9 donation for the shipping and processing costs of a box, print labels to affix to your boxes, and then be notified when the boxes are delivered!

By the way, you still have time to pack personal boxes if you want. Empty shoeboxes are in the Narthex and completed boxes must be returned to the church (in the Volunteer's Office) by November 22nd. You can also build boxes online by visiting www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/.



We sincerely hope you have been checking out the short inspirational videos that are being emailed to you. These videos are guaranteed to warm your heart and provide additional information about Operation Christmas Child that you may not have otherwise known.

Most importantly, please continue praying for this ministry. Pray for boys and girls in need around the world and ask God to prepare their hearts to respond to His love through these simple shoebox treasures.

Pray for the local churches who distribute the gifts and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with children, their families, and their communities. Pray for the children disciplined through the Greatest Journey discipleship program, that they would become lifelong followers of Christ who share their faith with family and friends. Pray for the volunteers worldwide. Lift up the thousands of people who handle the logistics of getting shoebox gifts from you to children around the world.



Faith & Art Center

Peace and grace to all from the Center for Faith & Art.

The Center reopened at the beginning of September. We have been busy cleaning, mixing glazes, and pugging clay (thank you Imad!). Most of the clients we serve have not been able to return to their programs. Thankfully some one-on-one students have been able to get into the center and are working on some wonderful clay creations.

Thank you to all of our church family, and especially for your prayers.

On another note, Jack and I are very thankful that we are now back in our house. While a few things are still being finished, it is so nice to be home again.

Gratefully,

Candy



Sew 'n Sews

While the quarantine has brought many things to a halt, the ladies of Sew 'n Sews have been diligently creating all kinds of amazing handmade items. Many of these creations are on display in the Narthex and are ready for you to buy. Contact Sandra Hollensead to complete your purchase.

In light of concerns about COVID-19, plans are also in the works for a virtual Christmas sale this year. For more information, please check out the Sew 'n Sews video on the TPC YouTube channel, or click the link below. Thank you for all your generous support of this ministry.

<https://youtu.be/vSOYqDxqBio>



Mini-Flocks

A TPC Elder Care Ministry

These are the mini-flocks to which each of our elders are assigned, as well as the mini-flock elder to whom each of us is assigned. Please get to know your mini-flock elder, for God has called them to build a relationship with you and to offer care to you as we LOVE, GROW, & SERVE the Lord together.

If you notice a name that is absent, this is an unfortunate oversight. Please let Pastor Steve know, and we will be sure to add them to our mini-flock list. For along with the Lord Jesus, we do not want to lose any of the flock God has entrusted to our care (see John 6:39).

<u>Ann Douglas (2020)</u>	<u>Sandra Hollensead (2020)</u>	<u>Betty Muse (2020)</u>
Chris & Maria Hall Paul & Sandra Hollensead Steven & Diane Jewell Kathy MacDonald Max & Sheryl Oyler James & Elizabeth Ray Greg Vann Dottie Watson Martha Warrick Bob & Camille Williams-Neal	Charles & Greta Bemisderfer Judy Davids (Kathy) Bill & Janet Husband Jane Kurfees Jan Larsen Randi & Jeanne Lind Betty Muse Sharon Fay Roy Philip & Linda Strohmeier Sheryl Yoffe	Luci Fulmore Abraham & Geetha Joseph Linda Jones & Charlie Ball Jack & Deb Kelly Ted & Virginia Kozak Mike & Jill McCullough Sherry Pritts Carol Redd (Stacy) Bill & Shirley Rush Jack & Candy Wheat
<u>Marc Bushue (2021)</u>	<u>Bert Lundstrom (2021)</u>	<u>Bonnie Mullin (2021)</u>
David & Jude (Bloor) Brandt Andy & Madison Cannava Don & Mardi Crosser Ron & Susan Dawson Patrick & Anna Hayden Karl & Brittney Maslowski Kyle & Bonnie Mullin Greg & Jenny Rousos Ghyll Simoneschi Kevin & Susan Smith	Won Joo Ahn Tim Barnum Steve & Cathy Conn Tom & Cathy Dawson Steve & Laura Edwards Amy Elder Brad & Mary Harville (Doug & Clay) Sandy Koukola Aileen Lucas Jean Paulman Melissa Weaver	Anuji Abraham Jeri Blair Imad El-Imam Ruth French Jennifer Hacker Carol Hartmann Barbara Keyser Bert & Suzanne Lundstrom Chris & Emily Mullin Brian & Heather Wallace
<u>Ron Dawson (2022)</u>	<u>Amy Elder (2022)</u>	<u>Carol Hartmann (2022)</u>
Susan Bauer Marc & Sherie Bushue Marie Farris Dennis & Brenda Miller Jerry Pender Matt & Rebecca Perry Andrew & Jennifer Petty C.R. & Ann Marie Redcorn Barbara Sheeler George Stone	Beth Bloss Margaret Bloss Barbara Cooke Robyn Hetman Kenny & Kay Hines Yohan & Janice Kim Josh & Elizabeth Latham Irvin Ottman Collette Sangster Skip Wilborn	Lois Bringham Harper & Marilyn Davis Becky Douglas David & Ann Douglas Thomas Douglas Joe Hoffert (Nick) W. Clarke & Marty Johnson Jim & Elizabeth McDaniel Jackie Morrow Steve & Kay Nolan

Financial *Update*

Due to the concerns about the coronavirus, TPC's church leadership had to suspend all in-person church activities beginning in the middle of March. Not until the early weeks of June were we able to carefully and gradually begin to resume some activities again. Undoubtedly, this has affected not only our ability to be together, but also our ability to support Trinity's mission and ministry. Because of this, many folks have asked how Trinity is doing financially. We are pleased to report to you some really great news.

First, in May the Session decided to apply for funds from the CARES Act. We were approved, and this helped to offset some of the staff salary expenses. We are working to have this loan forgiven, and expect this process to be completed very soon.

Second, not only have many of our church expenses decreased due to our limited activities, but giving has continued to be quite strong. In light of this, our 2020 budget is moving on a very stable trend. Through the end of September, our budget is tracking ahead by nearly \$14,000.

Third, the Trinity family has continued to faithfully support the mission and ministry of our church family. For this, we are exceedingly thankful, especially considering these are not easy and predictable days.

Fourth, as you know, we just finished our annual stewardship campaign. If you haven't yet made your pledge (or faith commitment) for 2021, you still have time to do so.

Lastly, we thank our Lord for His continued goodness to us and through us. If you have any questions regarding our budget, please give the church office a call, and we will do our best to get you an answer.

Gratefully in Christ,

The Session, the Finance Committee, and Pastor Steve

P.S. We are very grateful for your faith-filled generosity and investment in the ministry and mission God is doing among us and through us for His eternal Kingdom.





Work is almost done on our new and updated church contact directory. We hope to make this available to you very soon.

If you have any questions, or would like to double-check that your contact information is correct, please contact Sherry Pritts in the church office.



November 1	All Saints Day Worship Service Daylight Savings Time
November 22	Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection
November 29	The First Sunday of Advent Hanging of the Christmas Green

love. grow. serve.

Trinity Presbyterian Church.



Trinity Presbyterian welcomes all visitors, and especially those eager to encounter and enjoy the presence of Christ!

Our Sunday morning service begins at 11:00 a.m. We offer both in-person and Livestream access to this time of worship.

Both in-person Sunday School and child care continues to be suspended.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED