



# TRINITY TIMES



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April 2024

## Michael's Musings

Herbert McCabe, writing in "A Sermon for Easter" (*God Still Matters*), pens: "We do not gather at Easter to celebrate a doctrine. We come here to rejoice in the presence of one we love; in Jesus who was lost to us and has been found." Indeed, we gather to worship at Easter not to celebrate by way of comparison – that we are more blessed because we believe in the unbelievable when the rest of the world can't or won't. No, we gather to share in the most profound transforming experience of our lives: The crucified one is now alive among us. As Pope John Paul II put it, "It is impossible for us to abandon ourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song!"

But it can be hard to sing, "hallelujah" when, if the truth be told, the resurrection we are really focused on is our lost Christian privilege. Somewhere along the line we replaced the experience of the Resurrected Christ among us with what I believe is now a particularly dangerous conviction: that God intended Christianity to be THE ONLY religion of the world. Thus, rather than being an attractive people of joy due to our experience of the Living Christ, we settle for being a people of subdued optimism due to our religious convictions.

Blaise Pascal once wrote, "Human beings never do evil so cheerfully as when they do it from religious conviction." Indeed, religious conviction without the experience of the Resurrected One blocks our capacity for self-criticism, destroys humility, and undermines the sense of oneness that should bind us together as one – not just with other Christians of conviction – but with all of humanity. It was religious conviction (divorced from the experience of the risen Christ) that inspired the Christian Crusades against Muslims and, centuries later, the Easter pogroms of Eastern Europe that led to the slaughter of Jews.

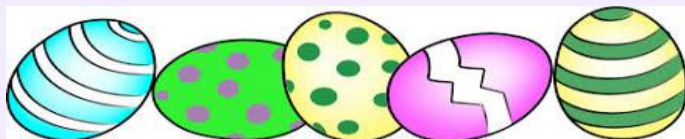
Here, I can't help but recall a William Sloan Coffin quote that I think about often, "I have become convinced that the more important question is not, 'Who believes in God?', but 'In whom does God believe?' Rather than claim God for our side, it's better to wonder whether we are on God's side." William Sloane Coffin, *Letters to a Young Doubter* (Westminster John Knox, 2005), 22-24. As a real disciple as opposed to a mere believer, one proclaims at Easter that one's wonder as doubt has been transformed by experience of the risen Christ into wonder as awe by way of the experience of the resurrected, crucified Christ. What could be more inviting than that?!

*Michael*

## NO EASTER BREAKFAST BUT EGG HUNT IS STILL ON

We had high hopes that the kitchen renovation would be completed in time to hold the annual Easter morning potluck breakfast. Unfortunately, we won't be able to get the kitchen ready in time. The wrong countertops were fabricated and now we're going to have to wait a while for the correct ones. Once the contractor is done, it will take several days of work to get everything cleaned and all the kitchen items put away. Everyone is working hard to finish up the work just as soon as possible.

The Christian Education Committee will still hold an Easter egg hunt on the back lawn starting at 9:30 a.m. Easter morning. Children ages toddler - fifth grade are invited to participate. Please bring a basket or bag to use for collecting eggs.



## One Great Hour of Sharing

Trinity will collect this special offering on Sunday, March 31.

Offerings may also be made online. For 75 years this Offering has helped improve the lives of the suffering and the vulnerable through three life saving programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. Over 100 countries are supported.

Every gift makes a difference in the life of the most vulnerable of God's people.

## March/April Worship/Trinity News

\* **March 31, 2024** 10:30 a.m.

### Easter Sunday

**Old Testament:** Isaiah 25:6-9

**New Testament:** Mark 16:1-8

**Sermon:** "Is He Dead?"

**Theme:** Is Jesus still dead? What do you think?

\* **April 7, 2024** 10:30 a.m.

**Old Testament:** Psalm 133

**New Testament:** John 20:19-29

**Sermon:** "Coming to Faith"

**Theme:** How does one come to believe in Christ and why does that matter?

\* **April 14, 2024** 10:30 a.m.

**Old Testament:** Genesis: 4:1-16

**New Testament:** 1 John 3:1-7

**Sermon:** "God's Favorites"

**Theme:** What does it really mean to be favored by God?

\* **April 21, 2024** 10:30 a.m.

**Old Testament:** Psalm 23

**New Testament:** John 10:7-18

**Sermon:** "One Who Really Knows You"

**Theme:** Being seen and known by God and others with love is sublime. But the risks involved make it difficult for us.

\* **April 28, 2028** 10:30 a.m.

**Old Testament:** Isaiah 56:3-5

**New Testament:** Acts 8:26-39

**Sermon:** "The Blessing of Welcoming Eunuchs"

**Theme:** The mandate of Christ to share God's love with the unchurched is as much to change us as it is to change the life of those with whom we share.

\* *In person service, and live-streamed on Facebook.*

### Member Sarah Humfeld Honored



Trinity member Sarah Humfeld was one of three individuals who recently received the Interdisciplinary Plant Group (IPG) Award acknowledging her work and her exceptional efforts to help mentor and promote research experiences for undergraduate students working in IPG labs. Additionally, the award recognized her leadership and support of the Freshman Research in Plants and Bringing Plant Science and Engineering Together programs. The IPG is a community of scholars at the University of Missouri who collaborate to promote excellence in plant research at MU. Congratulations, Sarah!

*Editor's Note: We'd love to share other achievements of Trinity members and their children. Please send information to our Trinity Times email: [trinitytimeseditors@gmail.com](mailto:trinitytimeseditors@gmail.com).*



Sunday School classes will not meet on Easter Sunday.

Classes will resume on April 7—children and youth at 9:15 on the lower level; adults at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall.

### Meet Our Newest Member



The Session welcomed Cathy Secretan into membership on March 19. Cathy was a resident of Kansas City for 30 years until recently when circumstances brought her to Columbia. Cathy has been attending Trinity for several months now and has already helped with Loaves and Fishes and participated in one of the Trinity Senior Singles outings. She is also interested in the Fiber Fellowship group. Cathy is transferring her membership from Second Presbyterian Church in Kansas City. Please help Cathy feel at home here at Trinity.

*Welcome, Cathy!*



### Trinity Library - Book Highlight with Marianne Fues, Trinity Librarian

***The Power of Kindness** by the Editors of *Random Acts of Kindness**

We all want meaningful connections to those we love, places we live, our neighborhood. We want to feel that we have made a difference, and we long for community. Connections can seem elusive. We are so busy. The world is changing and we get swept along.

We are challenged to find new ways of being connected to one another. Our community has expanded globally but we can feel cut off and alone. The *Power of Kindness* has grown out of the publishers experience of other *Random Acts of Kindness* books. The *Power of Kindness* is full of stories from people who have received or witnessed acts of kindness. A sense of community must come from simple human kindness. The publishers hope that these meditations will assist in bringing kindness to our lives.

[The Libraries have been moved!](#) The **Adult Library** has been moved into the former Administrative Assistant's office. The **Children's Library** has been moved into the former adult library space outside the sanctuary. Feel free to check out books of interest. The three-ring binders used for checking out books are available with each collection.

## Trinity News

# Let's Celebrate!

**Sunday, April 21**

## Property Improvements

### Dedication Service and Celebration Luncheon

After nine long months, our Property Improvements projects are nearly completed! Please join us for worship on April 21 as we dedicate our renovated spaces to the glory of God and the ministry of Trinity Presbyterian Church.

*After the service, we'll gather in the Fellowship Hall for lunch. The meat and drinks will be provided; please bring a side dish to share.*

### Highlights from the March 19 Stated Meeting of Session

- ◆ Elder Karen Neely was approved as an additional, authorized counter for the weekly offering.
- ◆ The Property Committee has approved a new playground structure for the existing backyard plot and met on March 21 with Girl Scout Troop 71765 members who will be installing the structure, repairing the steps, and adding additional mulch as their Silver Award Project.
- ◆ The Souper Bowl Food Drive resulted in 120 lbs. of food and \$440 in cash donations for the Food Bank.
- ◆ Session approved the use of memorial funds to purchase a keyboard for use in the choir room for rehearsals.
- ◆ Worship Committee Chair Carol Virkler announced that Rev. Brenda West will preach on June 9 and Rev. Dr. Deborah Boucher-Payne will be the guest preacher on June 16.
- ◆ Session will be undertaking an annual review of the current Policy Manual, church insurance, and the membership roll in accordance with presbytery and *Book of Order* requirements. Elders are in the process of completing Ethics and Boundary Training in accordance with a new *Book of Order* requirement.
- ◆ The 2024 Session Retreat will be on Saturday, November 9. Former Missouri Union Presbytery General Presbyter Rev. Dr. Deborah Boucher-Payne will lead the morning session.



## OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE - God's Work, Our Hands



## Lend a Helping Hand

### MISSION/OUTREACH LOCAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

On Saturday, April 27 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. our congregation will have the opportunity to join people from 55 other Columbia churches to participate in ForColumbia, a city-wide volunteer program. The purpose of the event is to share God's love by serving our community side-by-side for one day. A variety of projects will be undertaken at over 90 local sites.

ForColumbia coordinators will do their best to assign projects based on interests, physical abilities, and skills. Families may serve together, with children as young as kindergartners being included. For others who desire it, childcare will be provided for infants to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Each participant will receive lunch and a t-shirt.

As you prayerfully consider this volunteer opportunity, more information and registration will be available at church on Sundays. You may also get information and sign-up on your own at the online site <https://forcolumbia.com>



Please sign-up online and if you prefer to serve with others from Trinity, you must use our group name **Calvin** when registering.

**Saturday April 27  
from 9am-2pm.  
(Lunch is provided)**



### The Wardrobe: Columbia's all volunteer, non-profit thrift store

A monthly sign up form for volunteers is on the kiosk in the church narthex, or volunteers can call Anne Seymour.

Trinity's day to work is **Wednesday, April 17** and volunteers are needed for the 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. shift.



### Loaves & Fishes Trinity Serves on Thursday, April 11

Trinity served our last Loaves and Fishes meal in March at the Wilkes Blvd Church location. *Many thanks to Wilkes church for their years of dedication to this mission!!*

On April 1<sup>st</sup>, the new Loaves and Fishes serving location will be at the old VFW building on Ashley Street that was purchased by the city.

Trinity will serve our first meal there on Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> with serving time starting at 4:30. This means all donated food items need to be dropped off at Trinity by 2:30 and those helping to serve will need to be at Wilkes by 3:30.

We hope to have a tour of the new location and more information to share before we serve on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Call Susan or Bob Winkelmann if you have questions and please use the link sent out in the Friday emails to sign up to donate food items or to serve. Thank you!

## Trinity News

### Three Months in Mozambique: Research on Rural Local Government and a Family Trip to Africa

Trinity member Brian Norris received a Fulbright global scholar award to study rural local government in Mozambique for three months during the summer of 2024. This award allowed him to interview about 100 local government and civil society leaders in four rural sites in the country and for Jessica, Jo, Virginia, and Tabitha to join him for about six weeks.

Mozambique is one of the poorest countries in the world, and about 65% of its population lives in rural areas. Many rural areas lack adequate access to electricity, water, roads, healthcare, and education. Political scientists classify Mozambique's public administration as being in a phase of implementing "access reforms" designed to make basic services available for rural populations while countries such as Colombia have more or less achieved broad access to rural public services and are focused on improving the quality of these public services. While Mozambique is formally and in some ways substantively a constitutional democracy with universal suffrage, most rural Mozambicans do not elect their local officials. Mozambique is a post-conflict society that suffered a violent civil war between 1975 and 1990. My fieldwork revealed that while the Mozambican national government is strong enough to deny the vote to rural Mozambicans, its ability to provide basic public services is very weak. Many rural Mozambicans with whom I talked seemed increasingly fed up with the status quo. As the existential threats of the war faded from living memory, rural Mozambicans are facing a new set of challenges.

The backdrop to this research was a shared family experience that was irreplaceable. This was the family's second international trip, and it was neither Jessica's nor Brian's first rodeo. Nonetheless, the novelty of Africa and the very real logistical challenges of transporting the family to and caring for it within Mozambique were significant. Our time in Mozambique put us in contact with several groups, which quickly formed a sustaining community for us. Missionaries from Rolla, Missouri, of all places, showed us the ropes in Beira, the port city where we were based. Asima and Muniti, our neighbors, spoke the international languages of Legos and soccer, though they marveled at Jo, Virginia, and Tabitha's ability to throw a baseball. Jessica got to see an elephant in the wild, a deeply moving experience for her given her dedication of her career to environmental conservation. The Norris's came away from the experience with a deeper appreciation of their family unit, their blessings here in the US, and for the kindness and the peculiarities of the Mozambicans.



Come hear more about the Norris family's experiences in Mozambique at a special presentation in Trinity's Fellowship Hall on Sunday afternoon, April 14, at 4:00 p.m.



Please join us!

### *All Men Of Trinity*

are invited to meet for breakfast on

Wednesday,  
April 10, at 8:00 a.m.

JJ's Café 1712 N. Providence Rd.

Reservations are not required.

## Trinity News

### News for Presbyterian Women



Welcome to Spring, I think. (It's cold as I am writing this article.) As we travel through this Eastertide Season, let us join together in fellowship and study. Circles will be studying Lesson Eight "Lydia Encounters Jesus in Worship" in our Study Book, *Sacred Encounters*. **Evening Circle will meet at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, April 2, in Room 12 downstairs;** and **Afternoon Circle will meet at 1 pm on Wednesday, April 3, in Room 12.** Please check your e-mails for more details from your circle chair. Let us look forward to, and enjoy our time together.

I hope you all received your e-mail about "PW Gathering Quest Continues" in early March. It was filled with good and fun things about the upcoming event.

Any questions? Give me a call at 573-447-0552.

Charlotte Larrick, PW Coordinator



**Many thanks** to everyone who helped with our all-day Christian Education program, "Who Is My Neighbor?" presented in collaboration with First Presbyterian Church on March 20. Five Trinity children and friends attended for a day of music, mission, and a movie.

Special thanks to the Girl Scouts who led the kids in some really great games.

We are grateful to each of you.

--- The Christian Education Committee

### The Presbyterian Women Justice and Peace Book Discussion Group



#### BOOK DISCUSSION OF *TRANSFORMING – THE BIBLE & THE LIVES OF TRANSGENDER CHRISTIANS* BY AUSTEN HARTKE

On Friday, May 10, 2024, we will be discussing the book, *TRANSFORMING*, by Austen Hartke, in the Fellowship Hall at Trinity Presbyterian Church, starting at 10:00 a.m., and ending at 11:30 a.m. This book is the third book selected in 2024 by the National Presbyterian Women Justice and Peace Book Discussion Group. *TRANSFORMING* addresses transgender issues and language and provides stories of both Biblical characters and real-life narratives from transgender Christians living today.

The book is available at the Daniel Boone Regional Library in English and Spanish e-book, streaming audiobook, and downloadable audiobook.

Two copies of *TRANSFORMING* have been ordered for the Trinity Presbyterian Church library and should be available for check-out soon. We will let you know via the 'Friday e-mail' when they have been received.

If you wish to purchase the book, the title and author are provided in the heading to this article and the ISBN-13 is 978-0-664-26786-5. It is available at some local booksellers and from several online booksellers.

Anyone is welcome to participate in our discussion on May 10<sup>th</sup>. You are encouraged to read the book prior to the discussion so that you may **participate more fully in the discussion.**

If you would like to participate in the Presbyterian Women's national discussion of the book on Monday, May 13, at 5:30 p.m. (Columbia time), via Zoom, you may sign up at [presbyterianwomen.org/justice](https://presbyterianwomen.org/justice)

**Please note:**

**Fiber Fellowship** will not meet in April due to the ForColumbia workday.



## Trinity News

### Prayer Requests

#### Short Term Prayer Requests

**Doug Cornelison and Steve Yates**— as they move to Mississippi to be near family (moving the first week in May)

**Rev. Dr. C. W. Dawson, Jr.** - serious continuing health (lung) issues

**Rim Massey** – continuing his recovery for mobility

#### Long Term Prayer Requests

**Jackie Blanton** - continuing heart and kidney problems

**Lou Boka** - father of Samantha George, who is under-going treatment for cancer

**Paul Conditt** - Sarah's Humfeld's father who has health issues

**Jane Cooper** - Sharon Daly's sister, on dialysis and dealing with problems from diabetes

**Cheryl Gysbers** - breast cancer

**Esther Muench Plonk** - Jim Muench's mother, who suffers from dementia

**Hugh Williams**—Sharon Daly's brother, who has bladder cancer

#### Our Deepest Sympathy and Prayers

to **Charlotte Larrick and the family** of Trinity member Dean Larrick who passed away on March 25. A memorial service will be held at a future date.

#### Submissions for Trinity Times?

Email: [trinitytimeseditors@gmail.com](mailto:trinitytimeseditors@gmail.com)

The deadline for the May Trinity Times is Friday, April 26, 2024.

Kyle Groshong is our editor.

#### TO READ OUR PASTOR'S PREVIOUS WEEK'S SERMON,

go to:

<https://www.trinity-presbyterian.org/archives>

### Trinity's Brotherhood Fund Provides Financial Help to Others



The Brotherhood Fund was set up by Trinity's elders as a pastor's discretionary fund that is completely confidential. It is dispensed only by the pastor and designed to help out those in our community who may be in the midst of a financial crisis.

Simply make out your check to "Trinity Presbyterian", write in the memo line, "Brotherhood Fund" and mail it into the office or contact Ann Bouchard to determine how to contribute online.



If you are going through a difficult time and would like a confidential prayer partner, please contact the Trinity office at (573) 445-4469 or [trinity@trinity-presbyterian.org](mailto:trinity@trinity-presbyterian.org)



### Memorial Service for Norma Spurgeon

A memorial service in celebration of the life of Norma Spurgeon will be held at Trinity at **11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 9**, in the sanctuary. A luncheon reception in the Fellowship Hall will follow the service. Memorial contributions may be sent to Trinity. Norma's family has asked that these gifts be used for Trinity's music program.



# April 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 2:00 P.M.—Election Setup (FH) 7:00 PM—Fellowship Committee (Z)	2 <b>Election Day</b> 7:00 PM—Evening Circle (Rm. 12)	3 AM—Election equipment pickup 12:00 PM—Afternoon Circle (Rm 12)	4 7:00 PM—Worship Committee	5 5:30 PM—Women in Recovery	6
7 9:15 AM—Children & Youth Classes 9:30 AM—Adult Class 10:00 AM—Choir 10:30 AM—Worship 11:30 AM—Fellowship	8 9:00-11:30 AM—PEO Chap. LM (FH) 7:00 PM—Boy Scouts	9 11:00 AM—Spurgeon Memorial Service 2:30-5:00 PM—PEO 7:00 PM—Christian Ed Committee (Lib.) 6:30 PM—Girl Scouts	10 8:00 AM—Men's Breakfast (JJ's Café) 6:00-8:30 PM—Caring Women of COMO 7:00 PM—Choir	11 3:30 PM—Loaves & Fishes	12 5:30 PM—Women in Recovery	13 1:00 PM—AAUW Book Club (Rm 12)
14 9:15 AM—Children & Youth Classes 9:30 AM—Adult Class 10:00 AM—Choir 10:30 AM—Worship 11:30 AM—Fellowship 4:00 PM—Norris Presentation	15 7:00 PM—Boy Scouts	16 7:00 PM—Session	17 11:00 AM—Wardrobe 3:00 PM—Ad Hoc Comm. (Rm 12) 7:00 PM—Choir	18 2:00 PM—Property Committee (Rm 12)	19 5:30 PM—Women in Recovery	20 9:00 AM—Mulch Day
21 9:15 AM—Children & Youth Classes 9:30 AM—Adult Class 10:00 AM—Choir 10:30 AM—Worship 11:30 AM—Luncheon, Building Improvement Dedication	22 7:00 PM—Stewardship & Finance Committee (Zoom) 7:00 PM—Boy Scouts	23 11:00 AM—MO Symphony League (FH) 7:00 PM—Technology Committee (Zoom) 6:30 PM—Girl Scouts 7:00 PM—Sacred Harp Singers (FH)	24 10:00 AM—Congreg. Care Comm. (Rm 12) 7:00 PM—Choir	25 7:00 PM—Mission/Outreach Committee (Zoom)	26 Set-up: Garden Club Plant Sale (FH) 5:30 PM—Women in Recovery	27 9:00 AM-2:00 PM - For Columbia Mission Day Garden Club Plant Sale (FH)
28 9:15 AM—Children & Youth Classes 9:30 AM—Adult Class 10:00 AM—Choir 10:30 AM—Worship 11:30 AM—Fellowship	29 7:00 PM—Boy Scouts	30				