



# TRINITY TIMES



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February 2024

## Michael's Musings

I have been reading “The MAGA Doctrine: The Only Ideas that Will Win the Future” by Charlie Kirk. It is a *New York Times* best seller and has been lifted up by former president Trump’s base as his Magna Carta. The MAGA Doctrine serves as a blistering critique of what our republic has become. Kirk minces no words as he takes aim at both Democrats and Republicans.

I must say that I sympathize with the grievances outlined by Kirk: egregious government waste from politicians on both sides of the aisle who are out of touch with their electorate but seem to kowtow to every whim of the lobbyists of billionaires and large corporations. I am also in complete agreement with Kirk’s assertion that the United States was founded on human freedom, a state of being that is above and beyond the ways we have tried to live it out in our democracy.

But where Kirk goes off the rails for me is in his advocacy for what can only be defined as absolute individual freedom without any real personal responsibility. Kirk’s freedom includes giving the option to people of relying on the “common sense” of certain individuals over those who have dedicated their lives to studying a particular area. For instance, he advocates relying on the wisdom of one old farmer rather than agricultural experts about what might be best policies for land use in a particular area. (Most of my relatives are farmers and this idea terrifies me!).

There is, in fact, a virulent disdain by Kirk for the advice of learned experts, coupled with a dangerous naivete on his part regarding human sin – including how that sin is at the root of what he so confidently proclaims are the ONLY ideas that will win the future of the United States. Theologically, I understand freedom ultimately to be a spiritual state that can be reached regardless of outer circumstances – like the freedom exhibited by Nelson Mandela, imprisoned for 25 years in apartheid South Africa. However, Mandela was exceptional in this regard. Generally, we know there are human conditions more conducive to aiding people in experiencing this joyful state than imprisonment! Though imperfect, democracy appears to be the best among those conditions. It is a shame, as Kirk so aptly points out, that our system has degraded to the place where it has. But I do not see a fascist dictatorship – even by a benevolent leader who might appear to know what he or she is doing – as the answer. I am way too Presbyterian for that!

No, the answer is individuals, together in a democratic community, taking full responsibility for freedom – both their own and others’. With this God-given freedom, we need to continually find specific ways to practice the equanimity, compassion, and loving kindness of Christ every day – starting with those we love and moving out to include, yes, even our enemies.

*Michael*

**Shrove Tuesday**  
**Pancake and Sausage Supper**  
**February 13—5:00-6:30 p.m.**  
**Fellowship Hall**



**No cost for the meal, but  
 donations will be accepted.**

**Ash Wednesday**  
**Worship**  
**Noon on February 14**  
**in the sanctuary**



**The service will include the imposition of  
 ashes for those who desire to receive them.**

**(The service will not be live-streamed.)**

## February Worship/Trinity News

\* **February 4, 2024 10:30 a.m.**

**Old Testament:** Isaiah 40:21-31

**New Testament:** Mark 1:29-39

**Sermon:** "News Worth Sharing"

**Theme:** Most of the news today is bad. What are we to do?

\* **February 11, 2024 10:30 a.m.**

**(Transfiguration Sunday)**

**Old Testament:** 2 Kings 2:9-11

**New Testament:** Mark 9:2-9

**Sermon:** "Don't Forget to Breathe"

**Theme:** When life takes our breath away, we have to remember to breathe through it.

**Wednesday, February 14 at noon**

**Ash Wednesday Service (will not be live streamed)**

\* **February 18, 2024 10:30 a.m.**

**First Sunday in Lent (Communion)**

**Old Testament:** Psalm 25:1-7

**New Testament:** Mark 1:9-15

**Sermon:** "Discovering God and Ourselves in the Desert"

**Theme:** In the Temptations of Jesus we not only discover who he is, we discover who we are.

\* **February 25, 2024 10:30 a.m.**

**Second Sunday in Lent**

**Old Testament:** Psalm 51:1-17

**New Testament:** Matthew 11:28-30

**Sermon:** "The Spiritual Repair Business"

**Theme:** The Church needs to remember that it is the Soul salvage business.

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

**TO READ OUR PASTOR'S PREVIOUS WEEK'S SERMON  
OR TO VIEW THE WORSHIP SERVICE VIDEO**  
go to <https://www.trinity-presbyterian.org/archives>



The **children's and youth classes** meet on the lower level at 9:15 a.m.

The **adult class** meets in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m.

### Lenten Sermon Series Small Group Sundays February 18, 25, March 3, 10, & 24

Michael Stanfield will lead a Lenten study beginning Sunday, February 18 from 5:00-6:00 p.m. The group will meet 2/18, 2/25, 3/3, 3/10, & 3/24. The study will be based on the Sunday sermon. The first meeting will take place at Michael's home.

Each Friday in the church-wide email, a list of questions will be included to help guide individual members in their approach to the Sunday sermon. Michael will lead a discussion of the sermon based on these questions.

Those interested are asked to commit to the whole series; however, each session will be relatively self-contained so members can feel free to join at any time. **If you want to participate, please notify the church office by Wednesday, February 14.**

### A "Brotherhood Fund" Story

In August/September 2022 and June/July 2023 the Brotherhood Fund helped assist an Iraqi family in Columbia whose baby had been born with birth defects that required a few weeks in NICU. They had to return to their home country for the father's work at the end of September 2022. They returned to the U.S. on June 30, 2023 for Cleft Palate Surgery combined with two other surgeries, multiple doctor visits, procedures and therapies. The father was again required to return to his home country for his job on September 29, 2023 and the mother, 12 year old daughter and baby had to remain for medical treatments and therapies.

On January 14, 2024 the mother and children began their return trip to Iraq. The mother and children were under great pressure to pack up and leave and endure the very long flight that awaited them. Knowing that their apartment and all remaining supplies would be used to help others in similar situations was a huge relief for them and the husband who had to go much earlier to Iraq.

God helped them and protected them in many ways. After barely making their connecting flight in Dallas, due to weather delays, they missed their connecting flight in Qatar. Within the same time frame that they were to catch their connecting flight to Iraq, Iran was bombing sensitive sites in the city of Erbil where they were headed. All airports there were shut down. So the family was protected from even being on that flight as they may have been diverted to another city. After another 19 hours in Qatar, and struggling to find a hotel they finally reached their home safely. Now, another new chapter in their life begins.

## Trinity News

### “Who Is My Neighbor?”

Once again, the Christian Education Committee is hosting an **all-day event for children K- 5<sup>th</sup> grade** on a day Columbia Public Schools are not in session.

**Wednesday, March 20**, we will present programming from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Our theme will be “Who Is My Neighbor?” in honor of Fred Rogers’ birthday.

We’ll explore our theme through music, crafts, activities, and a lesson.

**Parents and grandparents – sign up your children today!** Children are welcome to bring a friend for the day. We are asking for \$10/child to help with our expenses.

If you can **help** with an activity or can be an extra pair of hands for part of the day, contact Chris Sheriff at [bookz54@yahoo.com](mailto:bookz54@yahoo.com) or 573-489-1783. **We would love to have youth helpers also, especially with the games!**



### *All Men Of Trinity*

are invited to meet for breakfast on

**Wednesday, February 14th**

**8:00 a.m.**

JJ’s Café 1712 N. Providence Rd.

**Reservations are not required.**

**Please join us!**



### Highlights from the January 16 Stated Session Meeting

- ◆ Welcomed new elders Jane Crow, Bill Daly, Karen Neely, and Debbie Newkirk; Karen is beginning her second term;
- ◆ Approved Bill Daly to serve as Trinity’s elder-commissioner for the Called Meeting of Missouri Union Presbytery on January 23 and the stated meeting of the presbytery on February 27;
- ◆ Received the year-end financial report from Administrative Assistant Ann Bouchard;
- ◆ Approved asking drivers using the front handicap parking spots to not pull onto the sidewalk area;
- ◆ Heard an announcement from Elder Karen Neely that the Stewardship and Finance Committee would be meeting on January 22 with a representative from the Presbyterian Foundation for an annual review of the February 15 Endowment Fund;
- ◆ Learned that the Rev. C. W. Dawson, Jr. will preach at Trinity on Sunday, March 3; the sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated next on Sunday, February 18;
- ◆ Set Saturday, November 9, 2024, as the tentative date for the 2024 Session Retreat;



## Trinity News



### Trinity Library - Book Highlight

with Marianne Fues,  
Trinity Librarian

#### 365 Ways to Love Your Child by Caryl Waller Krueger

LOVE. We hear this word a lot in February but it is a word for 365 days of the year. Krueger shares ideas from parents that can be used with our family, friends, neighborhood and world.

- Cookies in the neighborhood – for our children/grandchildren, neighbors, and friends to say “I love you”.
- Share a good-morning pancake with your child, your spouse, your neighbor by drawing a heart on the pancake just as it is beginning to set. Simple and fun!
- Valentine's Day can be special with a Valentine box in the center of the eating table. Fill it with cards, small gifts, all things telling children, mom, dad, grandparents, friends, all those present how much they mean to you. Open the box and distribute the contents as everyone eats a red and white meal.
- Show love for the world by recycling, planting trees, using less energy.
- Flowers are not just for special occasions. One stem can be put into a child's room with a love note attached. Take a small plant or stems to a friend to say you are thinking of them or because they had a hard week.
- And on to the next 360 ideas for showing love .....

As you know, the libraries are now in the process of being moved. The **Adult Library** has now been moved. The **Children's Library** book shelves are temporarily located in the crib room. Feel free to continue to check out books of interest. The three ring binders used for checking out books are available with each collection. Please feel free to ask for help.

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



### Loaves & Fishes

Trinity Serves on  
Thursday,  
February 8

Loaves and Fishes will continue to be served at Wilkes Boulevard church from 4:00 to 5:15 p.m. [This means all donated food items need to be dropped off at Trinity by 2:00 and those helping to serve will need to be at Wilkes by 3:15.](#) Call Susan or Bob Winkelmann if you have questions and please use the link sent out in the Friday emails to sign up to bring food or to serve. Many thanks!

Bob and Susan Winkelmann



**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, February 21st, and volunteers are needed for the 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. shift.](#)



## Trinity News

### News for Presbyterian Women



Goodbye, January, and Hello, February! Hopefully the weather will be better when circles meet next week!

**Evening Circle** will meet at 7 p.m. on February 6 in the Fellowship Hall, unless otherwise notified.

**Afternoon Circle** will meet at 1 p.m. in Room 12, Lower Level, on February 8.

Both will discuss Lesson Six “A Person with a Physical Disability Encounters Jesus” in our study book *Sacred Encounters*. We hope you can join us for fellowship and study.

Any questions about circle, please call me at 447-0552.

Charlotte Larrick, PW Coordinator

### Presbyterian Women Justice and Peace Book Discussion Group



On Friday, March 8, 2024, there will be a discussion of the book, *Our Missing Hearts*, by Celeste Ng, in the Fellowship Hall at Trinity starting at 10:00 a.m., and ending at 11:30 a.m. This book is the second book scheduled for the 2024 Presbyterian Women Justice and Peace Book Discussion Group. *Our Missing Hearts* is a fictional story about a 12 year old Chinese American boy living in the United States during a period of time when the government is controlled by PACT (the Preserving American Culture and Traditions Act) where Asian people are blamed for all of the problems in society. As a young child, Noah Gardner, nicknamed ‘Bird’ by his mother, experiences the disappearance of his mother, the demotion of his father, and shunning from his classmates and teachers at school. At age 12, Bird finds a note from his mother and decides to try to find her. We follow him as he and his father attempt to live their lives under the shadow of PACT and as he searches for his missing mother.

There are multiple copies of the book available at Daniel Boone Regional Library in several different formats – hardbound, paperback, e-book, audiobook, large print, and audiobook CD. Participants are encouraged to read the book prior to the discussion so that they can participate fully in the conversation.

**If you would like to join the national discussion of the book also, it will be on Monday, March 11, at 5:30 p.m., Central Standard Time, via Zoom.** To register for the national discussion, go to: [presbyterianwomen.org/justice](http://presbyterianwomen.org/justice)

If you have any questions, please contact Marcia Lake at 573-474-3494 or [marcialake@gmail.com](mailto:marcialake@gmail.com).

*To Our Dear Trinity Friends,*

*We sincerely wish to thank all of you for the wonderful reception that was given for our send off to Storm Lake, Iowa. The cards have been read and reread many times over.*

*Having been active members of Trinity for fifty-eight years we will always treasure the many fond memories. We plan to continue live streaming the Sunday morning services. If any of you find yourselves traveling through northern Iowa please stop in and say hello.*

*You will remain in our thoughts,*

*John and Thelma Hewett*



### Fiber Fellowship

Saturday, February 24  
from 10 a.m.—noon in  
the Fellowship Hall



## Trinity News

### Property Improvements Campaign Update

#### Status of Projects

Work is now progressing fairly rapidly as we move toward the completion of the installation of the vertical platform lift and finishing work on the stairwell and Michael's former office. The old elevator will be removed soon and the upper and lower sections of the shaft converted to storage closets.

Fellowship Hall work will be completed very soon. With the installation of the new floor tile, the one thing that remains is having the painters return to do some touch up painting.

The kitchen work will begin when the stairwell work is done. The Design Team has chosen all the finishes, cabinets are ordered, the new dishwashers have been purchased as well as a new sink, disposal, and coffee maker (not originally planned, but the old one gave out).

Flooring in the expanded kitchen will be installed and walls painted before the new cabinets are set in place. The new kitchen will include storage space for larger items like coolers, roasters, etc. as well as space for Loaves and Fishes items, communion ware and supplies, and some staples for Sunday morning refreshments.

The former adult library will be painted very soon and the Children's Library items moved in there. This will be a space where parents with young children can go during worship and still be able to hear and see the service. The new adult library has been painted, new flooring installed, and shelving and books in place. There are still a few things to be completed, such as getting a table and chairs for smaller group meetings and getting the computer set up.

One of the sanctuary furnaces will be replaced soon. The old one had a couple of unrepairable problems and is no longer safe to operate.

Much of the new carpet has been installed. The replacement of existing carpet on the upper level by the bathrooms, entry, and hallway outside the kitchen will be the last thing to be done. We want to wait until all the construction is completed so we don't risk damage to the new flooring.

#### Status of Financing

Through the end of December, 2023, we were able to cover all project expenses with pledged donations. \$292,100 was pledged toward these projects; and as of December 31st, the church had received \$186,875 in pledged donations. We are hopeful that the receipt of additional pledged donations in the early part of 2024 will allow us to retain the additional funds designated by session for these projects in interest-bearing accounts for as long as possible.

#### Questions?

If you'd like more information, you can contact members of the Ad Hoc Committee: Bill Kennedy, Chair; Elinor Arendt, Don Fues, Karen Neely, or Mark Virkler. Design Team members are Elinor Arendt, Ann Bouchard, Marianne Fues, Carol Virkler, and Susan Winkelmann. Questions about pledges or other financial gifts should be directed to Ann Bouchard, Administrative Assistant.



### A Gentle Reminder

For everyone's safety, if you park in one of the handicap-accessible parking places near the front entrance to the church, park completely on the blacktop. If vehicles are parked on the sidewalk, it blocks access for others coming to church. Thanks!

**Submissions for Trinity Times?**  
**Email: [trinitytimeseditors@gmail.com](mailto:trinitytimeseditors@gmail.com)**

The deadline for the March newsletter is  
 Friday, February 23, 2024  
 Kyle Groshong is our editor.

## Trinity News



### Music News with J. West, Director of Music

As we enter the season of Lent, we turn our hearts and minds towards the selfless sacrifice Jesus made for us on the Cross. This is a time of reflection, of penance, and of spiritual preparation as we journey towards Easter Sunday, the day of Jesus's resurrection.

Our choir is putting in the work, rehearsing for the upcoming Easter Cantata. This beautiful musical presentation, scheduled for March 17th, is a testament to their dedication and talent. The climax of the Cantata, the final movement, will be performed on Easter Sunday, encapsulating the joy and hope of Christ's resurrection.

In recent weeks, we were blessed to have special guest instrumentalists enrich our services with their incredible talent. I would like to express my deep gratitude to them. Their gifts of music have added another dimension to our worship and brought joy to our congregation.

As always, we are profoundly thankful for our choir. Their melodious voices uplift our spirits every Sunday, reminding us of the beauty and power of praise. As we move forward into this season of Lent, let us continue to reflect on Jesus's sacrifice for us, and look forward to the joy of Easter Sunday.



### Souper Sundays February 11 and February 18

It's becoming a Trinity Presbyterian Church tradition to use the buzz around February football to bring attention to the folks in our community who are struggling with food insecurity. They're often making a choice between buying food or paying for medications. Buying food or paying rent. From February 11- February 18 you'll find a Food Bank barrel in the Church narthex. **Let's fill it to the brim!**

Please bring non-perishable items in non-breakable containers. (Homemade or home-canned items cannot be accepted.)

Checks can be written, if you'd like the Food Bank to purchase fresh items (or if it is easier to write a check rather than shop). Make the checks payable to Trinity Presbyterian Church with "Food Bank" written in the memo line.

### Short Term Prayer Requests

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

**Jean Buck** - as she adapts to her new home at the Terrace

**Doug Cornelison** - continuing issues with low potassium levels

**Rev. Dr. C. W. Dawson, Jr.** - increased infection in his lungs

**Cathy Holder** - recovering from a serious heart procedure

**Brenda Martin** - the "other grandmother" of the Dawson's grandchildren is hospitalized

**Rim Massey** - home now, but continuing his recovery for mobility

### Long Term Prayer Requests

**Lou Boka** - father of Samantha George, who is undergoing treatment for recently diagnosed 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

### With Heartfelt Sympathy

**Monty Harris and family** - Trinity member Linda Harris died on January 16. Please keep Monty and his family in your prayers.



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)

