

TRINITY TIMES



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AUGUST 2023

Michael's Musings

We live in a crazy time don't we? But there is good news: the testimony of scripture again and again and again is that God is an independent agent in history who acts in mysterious ways often outside of the parameters of normality and even outside of the parameters of order and sanity. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord in Isaiah 55. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Just when we are at our wits end, just when we are at the end of our rope, along comes God – if we will but look for what God is doing now – not what we think God has or hasn't done in the past. "Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old," says Isaiah again in chapter 43. For, "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

A new way is always being forged by God. Good Friday miraculously gives way to Easter. We look at our current situation and we say with righteous anger, "No way can I live with that!" We find ourselves drifting back into destructive bad habits yet again and we say, "We will never be the people we want to be." We see the news about one more lone gunman going on a killing spree and we are just numbed and resigned.

From small personal matters to big international concerns, the words "never" and "impossible" cloud our minds. And indeed, it may be that we have, in fact, done everything we could humanly do to make the situation better or to find a satisfactory solution and there is literally no more that can be done.

However, if that is true then, from the perspective of faith, our worrying is over. With confidence, we can safely turn to God with this prayer, "Oh God, I know that your solution is already at work in the world and that you will make it known to us in your time. Make us open to the signposts you send, that we might recognize them and follow them faithfully as they come. Amen."

Michael

Building on Our Past . . . Committing to Our Future

Property Improvements Campaign

2023-2024

Fundraising Goal: \$170,000

Sunday, July 30, following the sermon, we will present our pledges for the five building projects approved by Session at their June 27 meeting. Pledge cards were mailed to all households along with a brochure explaining each project and its cost. With money from Trinity funds already on hand and some advanced gifts, work is already well underway on the construction of the new vertical, platform lift which will replace the outdated elevator.

Please prayerfully consider how you can financially support the improvements to Trinity's facility and present your pledge in worship Sunday. If you have misplaced your pledge card, there will be some available on the table by the entrance to the sanctuary. If you have any questions about how you can give to this campaign, please contact Ann Bouchard, Administrative Assistant. The members of the Ad Hoc Committee—Elinor Arendt, Bill Kennedy, Karen Neely, Mark Virkler, and treasurer Don Fues—will also be happy to answer your questions.

Worship at Trinity

End of July/August Worship

*** July 30, 2023 10:30 a.m. Capital Funds Pledge**

Dedication

Old Testament: Psalm 119:129-136

New Testament: Romans 8:28-31; 5:18

Sermon: "Destiny versus Fate"

Theme: Knowing the difference between fate and destiny can mean the difference between faithfulness and faithlessness.

*** August 6, 2023 10:30 a.m.**

New Testament: Romans 9:1-5

Old Testament: Genesis 32:22-32

Sermon: "Wrestling for Your Life"

Theme: Wrestling with God in our relationships.

*** August 13, 2023 10:30 a.m.**

Old Testament: Psalms 105:1-5

New Testament: Romans 10:5-15

Sermon: "Disturbances of the Soul"

Theme: We are disturbed by something these days. What is it?

*** August 20, 2023 10:30 a.m.**

Old Testament: Psalm 133

New Testament: Matthew 15:21-28

Sermon: "The Gift of Inclusion"

Theme: There are lessons in faithfulness that can only be learned through relationships with those who may seem quite different.

*** August 27, 2023 10:30 a.m.**

Guest Preacher: Rev. Kathie Jackson

* Services are also live streamed on Facebook

Join us each Sunday after worship for refreshments and conversation in the Fellowship Hall.

**TO READ OUR PASTOR'S
PREVIOUS WEEK'S SERMON,
go to:**

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



Reception for Bill Daly Sunday, August 20th following worship

Join us as we honor Bill for his faithful service as one of our organists.



We will thank Carol Virkler for her forty plus years of service in Trinity's music ministry at our Annual Congregational Meeting in January.

Come See the Scarves! Sunday, July 30 following worship

Scarves made by a number of Trinity women and friends of Trinity will be on display in the Fellowship Hall Sunday, July 30, after worship. These knitted and crocheted pieces were made in honor of former member Joan Bay who died last January and who was a charter member of the Assistance League® of Mid-Missouri. The scarves will be distributed to Columbia children with new winter coats through the Assistance League's® Operation School Bell® program.



Trinity News



For All Trinity Women Tuesday, August 15 10:00 a.m.—Noon

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for conversation, refreshments, and a preview of the upcoming 2023-24 Presbyterian Women Bible Study, **Sacred Encounters**. We'll also be creating some cute (yet very easy to make) greeting cards you can take home and use throughout the year for a friend's birthday, express a get well wish or a note of sympathy. (If you can cut

and paste, you can make these!)

The new Bible study books will be available for pick up and you'll have a chance to catch up with Trinity friends.

Whether you've been participating in one of the women's circles, want to get started this year, or just want to enjoy a couple of hours with other women of the church, please come!



News for Presbyterian Women

Circles start in September! Evening Circle will meet on September 5 at 7 p.m. at the church in the Fellowship hall and Afternoon Circle at 1 p.m. on September 6 at the church, probably in Room 12. **All circle members are encouraged to attend the fall kick-off event mentioned in the article immediately above to pick up new bible study books and have some fun!**

MUP PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS: Make plans to attend this year's PW Horizons Bible Study workshop with author Olive Mahabir on Saturday, August 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Village Presbyterian Church Friendship Hall, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village KS. The cost is \$25 and includes both a continental breakfast and lunch. See the PW MUP Summer Newsletter on the bulletin board in the narthex.

~~ Charlotte Larrick

Saturday, October 14, will be the Festival of Sharing Sharefest for the Central Region at Tipton United Methodist Church. Kits for the Festival of Sharing, can be delivered then.



Afternoon Tea & Purse Auction

Saturday, September 9th
2-4 pm

in the Fellowship Hall

The **Caring Women of Como** group invite the ladies of Trinity to an Afternoon Tea/Purse Auction that will bene-

fit the Food Bank of Central MO. **All women are welcome to come**, enjoy tea and snacks and even bid on gently used purses with mystery items inside! If you really want to get into the spirit, bring your own gently used purse as well with an item(s) inside that have a minimum \$15 value and invite your friends! We always have a terrific time!

100% of the proceeds will be donated to the Food Bank.
Please contact Cathy Holder with questions.

Don't Forget Game Night!

Join the Trinity family for fun and games in the **Fellowship Hall** on **Saturday, July 29, 2023**
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

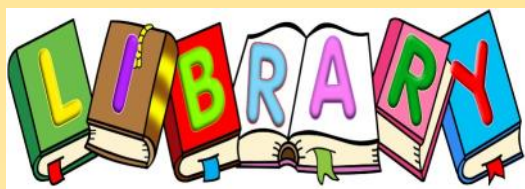
Bring your favorite games, or join with others. Learn new games or play old favorites.

Bring your family and friends!

You may bring your own snacks, or snacks to share.

Lemonade and coffee/tea will be provided.

Trinity News



Trinity Library - Book Highlight with Marianne Fues, Trinity Librarian

The Ultimate Happiness Prescription : 7 Keys to Joy and Enlightenment by Deepak Chopra.

Most people believe that happiness comes from becoming successful, accumulating wealth, being healthy and having good relationships. Chopra says these attributes are byproducts of happiness rather than the cause. Just as interest in wellness and prevention has risen in recent years so has interest in happiness.

Chopra gives seven keys to happiness for us to find joy and enlightenment. He concludes "Everything we fear in the world and want to change can be transformed through happiness, the simplest desire we have, and also the most profound."

As you know, the libraries are in the process of being moved. The Children's Library shelves are in the downstairs hall at the moment. The adult library is still in the same space until further renovations can be done to the former front office space. Feel free to continue to check out books of interest. The three ring binders for checking out books are still available with each collection.



Musical Notes Director of Music, Steve Yates

Christmas in July has come and gone, but for Church music that means time to get ready for Christmas. I have been doing just that during my extended free time. Christmas, Advent, and fall service music is being planned and we will begin rehearsals the First Wednesday of September, September 6.

We have been given several boxes of really good choral music. I have just begun to dig through the boxes but what I have seen is very exciting. Rev Jim West, our new organist comes to us From Fulton United Methodist Church and due to the closing of the church they were disposing of several items. Choral music one of them.

As I have mentioned, Rev Jim West begins as our organist and pianist July 30. Jim was a United Methodist minister for many years, but after his retirement he focused on church music. He will bring a new energy and freshness to our music

We have said goodbye to Jack Snelling: he was such a bright light here at Trinity and I feel blessed to have seen the magic he shared with us each Sunday. As Jack leaves us for Eastman Conservatory in New York we will wish him the very best and yet still miss him. Good luck Jack.



July also saw the last Sundays that Carol Virkler and Bill Daly were regular organists. They have both spent years of devotion and shared talents with Trinity. Please thank them for their service. Regular Wednesday night rehearsals for the Sanctuary choir resume September 6 at 7pm.



All men of Trinity

are invited to meet for breakfast
on

Wednesday, August 9

8:00 a.m.

at JJ's Café

1712 N. Providence Rd.

Reservations are not required.

SPOTLIGHT ON MISSION

Agencies Supported through Our Annual Budget

By Karen Neely

This is the 3rd in a series of articles on missions supported by Trinity

Serving others has always been the heart of Trinity. While Trinity has many Mission projects, the Mission committee is provided with a budget to specifically identify areas of need. The 2023 Mission budget is \$11,750 and is divided among the following 25 programs.

[Agape Fellowship](#) is a congregation of immigrants and refugees primarily from Rwanda, Burundi, and eastern Congo. This community is led by Pastor Aaron Ruvugwa.

[Bread for the World](#) is a Christian advocacy organization urging U.S. decision makers to do all they can to pursue a world without hunger.

[Central Missouri Stop Human Trafficking Collation's](#) mission is to end and prevent forced labor and sexual exploitation of innocent children, women and men.

[City of Refuge](#) equips the refugees and immigrants arriving in our community with the materials they need, as well as deeper friendships they can count on as they navigate a new life in the United States.

[Columbia Housing Authority—Low Income Services](#) has 3 goals: Help children be prepared to enter school and succeed in school and life. Support families as they work toward self-reliance. Empower individuals and persons with disabilities to live independently.

[Festival of Sharing](#) is an ecumenical response to poverty and hunger in Missouri and beyond. Supports projects and programs that help our neighbors experience healthy and full lives. (*Featured in the July newsletter*)

[Food Bank for Central and NE Missouri](#) is a regional disaster and hunger relief network that acquires and distributes millions of pounds of food annually to partner agencies across a 32-county area.

[Granny's House](#) is a multi-church effort that includes programs for children of all ethnic and religious backgrounds. It has become a bridge between children living in Columbia public housing and a wide range of programs and community opportunities.

[Hosean International Ministries'](#) mission is to empower Haitians with the gospel of Jesus Christ through education, life skills training and economic growth.

[Jubilee Partners](#) is a Christian service community in rural Georgia. Their primary work is to offer hospitality to immigrants who have experienced violence or persecution.

[Loaves and Fishes](#) is a local "soup kitchen" located at the Wilkes Blvd United Methodist Church where the hungry are provided dinner. Trinity members contribute, prepare, deliver and serve dinner on the second Thursday of each month.

[Love Columbia](#) serves anyone in Columbia who is struggling to provide for their basic needs or to improve their life and wants help to create a path forward. Their Love Seat program provides free furniture and their coffee shop, Love Coffee, provides employment training and opportunities for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

[Medical Benevolence Foundation](#) was formed in 1963 by a group of physicians to improve the quality of care provided by various Church's medical missions. Their goal was to offer consistent international standards of clinical care while sharing the love of God. They are long-term partners with ministry leaders of multiple denominations in the Caribbean, Africa and the Middle East.

[Outreach Foundation—Don and Martha Wehmeyer](#) Established in 1979, the foundation connects Presbyterians to God's work in the world. The Foundation focuses on 5 priorities: Build the capacity of global church partners. Send and support missionaries. Care for vulnerable children. Expand support for mission. Transform lives through mission involvement. The Wehmeyers work with the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico.

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Trinity News

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PET (Personal Energy Transportation) - MO-Columbia Project Mobility World Wide is a faith based, volunteer run organization which builds 3-wheel hand-crank carts. The carts are delivered around the world focusing on locations with the greatest need, allowing recipients without the use of their legs a chance to make their way in the world.

Presbyterian Children's Home and Services provides Christ-centered care and support to children and families in need.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance enables congregations and mission partners of the Presbyterian Church to witness the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crises and catastrophic events.

Room at the Inn provides a safe, warm and dry place to sleep for our unsheltered population during the cold Missouri winter months.

Show Me Central Habitat for Humanity's vision is a world where everyone has a safe place to live. They seek to put God's love into action. Habitat brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

St Francis Catholic Worker Men's House currently provides overnight accommodations for unsheltered individuals. A majority of their guests suffer from mental illness or substance abuse. They provide breakfast and a light supper for overnight guests and others in need.

True North provides safety, shelter, education and transitional support for those who have been affected by sexual and domestic violence.

Vandalia Agape House provides shelter for up to 30 visitors and provides affordable overnight lodging to families of offenders in area state correctional facilities.

Voluntary Action Center provides resources for basic and emergency needs in the areas of health, employment, education and housing.

Voluntary Action Center Fish Fund Since 1981, Columbia area congregations have supported low-income families through the Faith in Service to Humanity (FISH) Fund of Interfaith Council. VAC is the sole administrator of this fund, providing this service at no charge.

Wardrobe sells donated clothing at low prices. Upon annual renewal, referrals from the Voluntary Action Center, local social service agencies, and area churches can receive five complete outfits twice per year. The referrals are also eligible to purchase inexpensive shoe coupons to redeem at a local shoe store. It is operated by volunteers from area churches. Trinity volunteers work every third Wednesday of the month. *(Featured in the June newsletter)*



Invite Someone to Church Sunday

Sunday, October 1, the Outreach Committee is hosting “**Invite Someone to Church Sunday**.” As a congregation, we often celebrate the warm, welcoming spirit of our members. This October, let's take it a step further and actively reach out to people we know.

A face-to-face invitation is the most effective, but it can be a scary proposition to invite a friend, relative, or neighbor. Here are a few tips:

- Pray before inviting someone. Ask the Holy Spirit to prompt you if you should invite someone.
- Ask them if they would like to go WITH you. Don't throw an open invite, but instead offer to meet them.
- Explain what it will look like, and answer questions they may have.
- Be by their side as they step into the unknown.
- Follow up.
-

October 1 will be here before we know it, so please prayerfully consider inviting someone to worship with us that morning.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE - God's Work, Our Hands



Please give as you are able:

City of Refuge is in need of the following supplies:

- toilet paper
- Laundry pods/small bottles of liquid
- Baby wipers
- Lotion
- Multipurpose cleaner spray/disinfectant wipes
- Diapers (size 5-6)

Items can be dropped off Wednesday, August 23 from 1 to 4 p.m.



School Kit Bags For the Festival of Sharing

By the end of July, school kit bags (with a list of the items to fill the bags) will be available in the Narthex – just in time for the Missouri 'back-to-school sales tax holiday', August 4-6. The filled bags will need to be returned to the church by **Sunday, September 10th**.



Fiber Fellowship

Saturday, August 26 - 10-12 in the Youth Room

Bring your knitting, crocheting or other fiber creations to work on as we enjoy each other's company.

You can knit scarves in honor of Joan Bay for the Assistance League® of Mid-Missouri's Operation School Bell®, or work on a personal project.

For more information about Fiber Fellowship contact Chris Sheriff, Susan Winkelmann or Karen Neely.



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 Georgia Morehouse. Trinity's day to work is Wednesday, August 16th, and volunteers are needed for the 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. shift.

Trinity Provides Food for the Hungry through Loaves and Fishes

Trinity will serve at Loaves and Fishes on Thursday, August 10th at 4 p.m. Please watch for an email regarding sign up requests for food donations and servers. More servers are needed now that dishes are being used again.

Your donations of money, food and time continue to be greatly appreciated.

Thank you, thank you to all who donated food and money and to those who helped prep and serve at Loaves and Fishes on July 13. The meal of deli sandwiches, coleslaw, fruit, chips, and cupcakes was enjoyed by all. Additionally, many "to go" bags were given out. We appreciate everyone's generosity! Bob and Susan Winkelmann



Prayer Requests and Member Information

Short Term Prayer Requests

Kate Virkler— daughter of Mark & Carol Virkler, recovering from recent hospitalization with pneumonia and pulmonary embolism.

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

Jacob Fues – COVID long-hauler syndrome

Janet Ghio - friend of Kyle Groshong, treatment for multiple myeloma is going well

Cheryl Gysbers - daughter-in-law of Norm Gysbers, has an aggressive form of breast cancer

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

Norma Spurgeon—Prayers for continued healing and strength.

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

Steve Yates—continuing health and healing

GET CONNECTED - STAY CONNECTED

New to Trinity? Text the word "Welcome" to 573-284-8084 to get connected. We'll be in touch soon.

Already a member or a regular attendee? Text "Member" to 573-284-8084 so we can keep you up to date on what's happening at Trinity.

Do you have a prayer request? Text "pray" to 573-284-8084 and our pastor will contact you.

Submissions for Trinity Times? Email: trinitytimeseditors@gmail.com

The deadline for August Trinity Times is Friday, August 25, 2023.
Kyle Groshong is our editor.



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

New Member Update



Welcome to Trinity, Esther!

Esther Muench Plonk joined Trinity on June 27

Her address is:
The Arbors at
Bluff Creek Terrace
3100 Bluff Creek Drive, Room 6

Ken Jarvis has a new phone number: 785-531-9229 and a new e-mail address: kengjarvis1965@gmail.com



Thank you so much for the beautiful roses for my 90th birthday. It's so nice to be remembered in such a special way, and Jane (Crow) was so kind to deliver them on such a sweltering day! Loved all the cards as well.

Fondly,
Anne Wagner