



Trinity Tidings



*An Inviting Community Following Christ For Life
Loving God, Welcoming All, Helping Many*

Volume 54, Issue 1

January 2021

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:6-7

My New Year's resolution: to be more thankful.

As we stand on the cusp of a new year--a year that we are all praying will be profoundly better than 2020--we are probably giving some thought to what we hope will be the character of 2021. I'm also thinking about what my *own character* will be in this year. For me, as I've told you before, I'm not an incredibly big fan of New Year's Resolutions, but still, this year, I am making a resolution: to be more thankful. Why?

My answer is painfully simple. As I write this I have known 40 people who have contracted Covid-19. Some were acquaintances, others were friends while twelve were family members. Of those 40 souls, eight were hospitalized . . . and five of these have passed away.

Now, I know you want only *good news* as we begin 2021 and that is where this story is going! You see: this past year has been a year of sadness and loss for many of us; it certainly has been for me and because of that, I want to try to be more **thankful** in 2021. I want gratitude for all the blessings of my life—both great and small—to more characterize who I am.

I'm inviting you to consider this same goal.

No matter what we have endured during 2020, we can all find things for which to offer thanks to God our Savior . . . because we are here to offer our thanks! Why not spend 2021 looking for every single thing for which we can be sincerely grateful? Why not let a year of complaining and lamenting open on to a year of appreciating and thanksgiving? Why use this New Year as a year of expressing our thanks—in thought and word and also, deed. What would it be if we moved from the Year of Anxiety into the Year of Gratitude? Think about it, good sister. Consider it, good brother. The year is before us, waiting to see what our character will be. I believe a few hundred followers of Christ who are spending their year in thanksgiving might give all of us very good reason to be...

Hoping Big,

Gregory



Staff

Pastor/Head of Staff
The Rev. Dr. Gregory
C. Faulkner

Associate Pastor
The Rev. Ms. Sarah
Craven

Parish Associate
The Rev. Mr. Barry
Gruver

**Director of
Music**
Lisa Marcelli

**Music
Associate**
Brian Kain

Church Treasurer
Debby Talbott

Office Manager
Sue Nork

Media Associate
Alysia Sieh Badskey

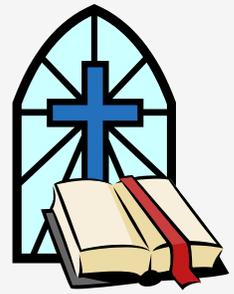
**Membership
Associate**
Pam Dougherty

Behold
I make
all things
➔ *new* ➔

Revelation 21:5

May God bless you
this New Year!

The Friends of Israel



Session of Elders

Clerk of Session

Jenny Stark

Adult Ministries

Larry Miller

Children's Ministries

Gary Naumick

Finance & Stewardship

Brad Ritchie

Membership

Susan Bastnagel

Mission & Outreach

Eric Waraas

Personnel

John Young

Property & Buildings

Rick Fletcher

Worship & Music

Steve Talbott

Youth Ministries

Tracy Miller

Strategy Committee

John Young

Deacons

Moderator of Deacons

Doug Nork

Committee Chairs

Assistance

Pete Desjardins,

Trudie Levins

Fellowship

Cindy Mailahn

Service

Randy Southworth

Visitation

Deepa Albert

Session Update

At its stated meeting on December 6, 2020 the Session:

- Updated and **approved** the Member Count of 646.
- **Approved** the baptism of Landon James Johnson on 4/25/21.
- **Approved** Brian Hamilton to be our Boy Scout chartering organization representative.
- Learned the ad hoc Reopening Committee met and will continue to meet monthly to access in-person worship options.
- Heard Rev. Faulkner and Rev. Craven's Ministerial Reports.
- Learned that the West Jersey Presbytery had voted and **approved** to become a new mission community and welcomed six new congregations from the redistribution. WJP is soliciting new name ideas for our restructured presbytery.
- Discussed and **did not approve** an outdoor Christmas Eve service.
- Where thankful to learn that the full PPP loan of \$98,000 has been forgiven.
- Reviewed Trinity's Year-to-Date Financial Information as of Oct 31:
- Pledge income was \$505,752 (\$8,475 under budget)
- Expenses were \$630,765 (\$83,692 under budget)
- Nursery School net loss for the year is \$6,993.
- Shared prayer concerns and celebrations.

- Jenny Stark, Clerk of Session

Children's & Youth Ministries

Fall Back into Sunday School!



Join us for Virtual Sunday School in the New Year. **On the first Sunday of every month at 11 AM**, Pastor Sarah will lead us together over Zoom using Story and Stretch. So wear your comfortable clothes, as we learn a Bible story through stretching and then break up into our classes to catch up with our teachers and friends.

The other Sundays of the month, one of our Sunday School teachers will lead us through a pre-recorded video you can watch anytime, anywhere! There will be a 3 year old to Kindergarten video and an Elementary school-age video. The Zoom invitation and video links will be sent through email, so make sure we have your up-to-date email so you don't miss out on all the fun! Any questions? Reach out to Pastor Sarah at sarah.craven@trinpres.org

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

Once again, Trinity plans to publish a **Lenten Devotional** with reflections from our own congregation. You may remember from devotionals of the last three years that we are seeking submissions much in the style of *These Days*, *Daily Guideposts*, or another devotional with which you may be familiar. Submission to the devotional should include:

1. A verse or verses of scripture that comforts, challenges and/or teaches you.
2. A short discussion of how this scripture has been important to you (about 250 words).
3. A short prayer (2 or 3 sentences are fine).
4. Your name.



Since the devotionals need to be printed to be ready for distribution beginning the weekend before Ash Wednesday, the date due for submission has been established as **Wednesday, January 13th**. Please send all submissions to SUSAN BASTNAGEL at sbastnagel@gmail.com and copy Alysia Sieh Badskey alysia.sieh@trinpres.org and Larry Miller at clm974@hotmail.com. Also please put Lenten Devotional in the subject line of the email.

All members of the Trinity community, both youth and adult, are invited to participate in this church wide publication. If you have any questions, please contact: Larry Miller at clm974@hotmail.com or Alysia Sieh Badskey at alysia.sieh@trinpres.org.

Care 'n Share

Care 'n Share has not been given a date for re-opening. In the meantime, we cannot accept any donations. Please be patient; save the "good" stuff for us!



FYI: St. Vincent de Paul in Medford is open and of course Goodwill. (Behind Loews on Rt 73)

Please read Trinity's Annual Report for our 2020 activity. Thank you to all the volunteers, shoppers & those who donate to the shop.

Let's have a *Happier* New Year!

Virtual Coffee Hour

Miss seeing all of your Trinity friends and catching up over a cup of coffee or lemonade at Coffee Hour? Join us for Virtual Coffee Hour every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at 10:30am. Members from 2 to 90 years old have jumped on! Kids and families are joyfully welcomed.



We gather together on Zoom at 10:30am, and once everyone has signed on, we split into breakout groups of about ten to catch up. It's a great way to see familiar faces or even have the opportunity to get to know different Trinity members. We finish around 11:15am with everyone together again and a short prayer to send us out for the rest of our Sundays.

Since this meeting is for Trinity members only, the link will not be posted to the website. Instead to join, please click the link in your Trinity virtual & coffee hour email or contact Pastor Sarah at, sarah.craven@trinpres.org for the link. Hope to see you there!

Pledge Box Pick Up Reminder

2021 PLEDGE BOXES ARE HERE

For people that want their 2021 pledge boxes they will be ready in ABC order in front of the office doors. You may stop by to pick them up Monday thru Thursday 9am to 4pm.

The boxes are very expensive to mail, so please take the time to pick them up. Also if you don't need your box please email me or call the church office at 856-428-2050 and we will be sure to not send it. We will also save money by not ordering your box for the following year since I am now able to order only the boxes that are needed.

Thanks so much!

Debby Talbott, Treasurer
debby.talbott@trinpres.org

Trinity Presbyterian Women: January Meetings

MONDAY, January 18, 2021

DEBORAH Circle 1pm Circle leader: Doris Sapp

Deborah Circle doesn't meet virtually, but they keep in touch by phone.

RUTH Circle 7pm Circle leaders:
Nancy Roberts &
Susan Bastnagel

MONDAY, January 25, 2021

PRISCILLA Circle 1pm Circle Leader: Jenny Stark

TUESDAY, January 19, 2021

SHIPHRAH Circle 7pm Circle Leaders: Sue Nork & Patti Baechler

REBEKAH Circle 7:15pm Circle leader: Louisa Coffin-Tilsner

Rebekah Circle meets every Tuesday

WEDNESDAY, January 13, 2021

MIRIAM Circle 9:30am Circle Leaders: Pam Dougherty & Smita Simpatico

*Miriam Circle has been meeting on the **second Wednesday at 9:30am via Zoom**, and will continue to do so throughout June 9th of 2021.*

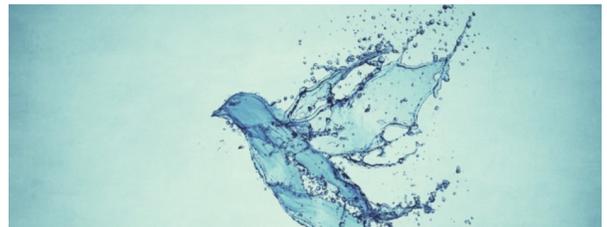
SUNDAY, January 24, 2021

ESTHER Circle 11am Circle Leader: Linda Craven



PW Circle of the Month for January: Esther

Happy New Year to the amazing women of Esther Circle. They are continuing to work and study the Bible together. Esther Circle was started in 2018 as a way to bring together women who were not able to meet during the week. Their Sunday meetings after church provided a good time for fellowship for this group of strong and diverse women. They are currently meeting on Zoom and studying the Horizon study about the Living Waters.



Reach out to our sisters in Esther Circle and wish them well on their journey through 2021 and into brighter times. God bless and keep these outstanding women of Trinity in our prayers.

Stewardship Talk: Susan Bastnagel

Our Virtual Journey

Good Morning! Today marks our 32nd virtual worship service. 32 weeks since we've worshipped together here in the sanctuary! But since that very first Sunday of the shutdown back in March, we have been able to worship together, thanks to Greg, Sarah, Barry, Lisa and Brian - and thanks to Alene and Burt Bowen who had stepped forward at the start, saying "I think we can help here."

When Burt contacted me about getting that first virtual service online, I mentioned then that I had a little bit of experience in video editing, so maybe I could help too.

None of us thought this would last as long as it has. But for me, being involved in the production side of virtual worship has been a huge blessing, especially during those first long, lonely months.

We've all learned a lot along the way, and we knew early on that even when we returned for in-person worship, we would have to continue a virtual option. And so, in mid-spring, we began planning for livestreaming. Once again, Burt and Alene led the way. They researched, acquired, and installed the necessary equipment with assistance from Walt Steinle, Steve Talbott, and Clay and Sarah Payne - and with the congregation's financial support.

So here we are – we're now recording the services as if we were livestreaming. And soon, we will take that last leap and viewers at home can tune in as the service is happening. Of course, if you want to watch at a later time, we will be recording - so you'll have that option too.

Alene recently led the first meeting of the Trinity Production Team – a group of volunteers who will be helping with livestreaming behind the scenes. During the meeting, nearly all of us shared that we have no experience with this technology...to which Alene said, we are all beginners here!

So I'm sure there will be glitches and we'll add to our ever-growing Blooper Reel. But we have come so far in our Trinity virtual reality! And not just with worship - Jenny Stark became an expert on Zoom webinars to facilitate the Town Halls on Race. Our Circles, Bible study groups, and other fellowship groups have used Zoom to stay connected. Sarah and Lisa have provided amazing opportunities for Trinity's kids, teens and young adults.

We have all been beginners at one time or another during the past seven months. As our physical separation continues and until we can all be together again here, I encourage you to check out the many opportunities to connect virtually at Trinity. Fellowship, education, mission, volunteering...the opportunities are plenty – and by the way, we can use some more volunteers for the Trinity Production Team! And remember, beginners are always welcome!

Stay Connected!



Connect with Trinity:

Web: www.trinpres.org

Email: trinpres@trinpres.org

Phone: 856-428-2050

Facebook: [Facebook.com/trinpres](https://www.facebook.com/trinpres)

Instagram: [Instagram.com/trinpres](https://www.instagram.com/trinpres)

Mailing Address: 499 Route 70 East,
Cherry Hill, NJ, 08034

Ways of Connecting with Trinity

Virtual Worship– Check our website every Sunday for our Virtual Worship services.

Phone Calls & Email– We are here for you! Call or email the Church Office, Monday-Thursday, 9am-4pm. Pastors will also be making calls and reaching out to you.

Website– Visit our website to stay up-to-date with all happenings at Trinity, the scrolling web banner at the top of the page will link you to our most important information.

Eblasts– Check your inbox (and spam folders) for up-to-date Trinity news.

Facebook– Our Facebook site will also keep you informed. This is also where you can post comments and share photos!

YouTube Videos– Check out our Virtual Worship videos but also videos of past musical performances and congregants sharing what makes Trinity such a great place to worship!

Instagram– Trinity now has an Instagram page! Follow us in this new venture on Instagram at [@trinpres](https://www.instagram.com/trinpres).

Prayer Wall– Do you know you can post prayer requests to our website? Look for more information to come on just how to do this.

Zoom Groups– Many groups at Trinity are connecting through zoom– it's like a giant FaceTime session for a whole group of people! It can be done through a computer or phone– check with your group leaders to see if they are offering this.

Please check with your group leaders to see if any Trinity groups will be meeting online in January



Trinity Presbyterian Church (USA)
499 Route 70 East
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034-2462

Next Tidings deadline is January 15th for February Issue

HAPPY NEW YEAR

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*

ECCLESIASTES 3:11

Virtual
Worship:

9:30am

Sunday
Mornings