



Trinity Triumph

March-April 2022

Zanesville, Ohio

Pastor's Ponderings

This year, winter arrived in January – well after dreams of white Christmases had faded from our minds. And when it finally came, it blew in like a great storm. And it kept on storming for weeks on end... And then the sky came down in sheets of ice.



Ah! The wonders of winter!

Ordinarily I like winter. Temps under 20* make me feel alive! I love walking in the hush of darkness when the air is filled with sparkling snowflakes and all you hear is the crunch of those which have already fallen... This is most true when the temperature is below 0*!

COMING EVENTS

March

2 – Ash Wednesday

20 & 27 – Spring Collection for 1st Responders

April

3 – deliveries for 1st Responders

10 - Palm Sunday

17 - Easter

May

It's also a time when I feel especially close to God. Yes, the beauty is astounding. (How *did* God make each flake so different from every other flake? Their composition is simply two atoms of hydrogen and an atom of oxygen. How can anything so complex come from that?) Because life is pared down to the most basic essentials in winter, the depth of God's love for humankind is more fully witnessed. The fewer the extraneous stimuli, the more able we are to hear, see and taste the wonders God has wrought.

In Isaiah 55 we hear God saying:

Just as the rain and the snow come down from the sky
and don't return there without watering the earth,
making it conceive and yield plants
and providing seed to the sower and food to the
eater,
so is my word that comes from my mouth;
it does not return to me empty.
Instead, it does what I want,
and accomplishes what I intend.



Amidst the dark silence of winter, the snow waters our inner most beings so we can experience a deeper spiritual life. Hydrated in that darkness, God's word more ably seeps into our beings. If we but allow it, that word can sink into our hearts making them soft so God can work through them to benefit all of God's creation.

This is why I believe our capacity to respond to the nudgings of God's Holy Spirit is surprisingly strong during winter.

At least unless the sky comes down in sheets of ice.

It's hard to sense God's presence when the electricity has blown because the lines are overladen with ice, and the house is 43* and it's all you can do to shiver under several layers of clothes along with several more layers of blankets.

That was the day I felt as though ice had created a wall between God's love and me. Try though as I might I couldn't keep my focus on God's hopeful word. I felt empty, isolated and alone.

Those moments provided a deeper appreciation for the mental health needs of people who are confined away from loved ones – be it due to divisive arguments, ill health, or yes, ice storms. And though May is traditionally Mental Health Awareness month I want to bring your attention to the subject now.

Our society has endured a long period of tumultuous change, anxiety, and frustration. This leads to emotional fatigue and many people are on edge even if they don't realize it. To complicate matters, since the first of this year, this congregation has experienced a surprising number of hospitalizations and ongoing illnesses. I suspect that all of us are seeing we're not quite as young or resilient as we once were. Our mental health is being stretched thin.

And yet...

And yet, I also see a people – all children of God - whose hearts are regularly refreshed and renewed through God's word. Inspired by that word, you look for the good in each day and you continue to serve as best you can even in the coldest months. For some, this means shoveling the walks around the church after a snowfall. For others it's organizing events to draw your church family together in worship or for a time of respite. For

still others your service is making sure warm hats and gloves are distributed to folks who have limited shelter. Most importantly, all of you continue to pray for the world and those around you. And prayer is the greatest service anyone can offer. Your very lives ensure God's word does not return empty but accomplishes what our Creator desires.

Your prayers encourage your inner being to grow strong. Your prayers fill your reservoirs back up and will enable you to serve God in one more way: As the cold lingers a while longer, I invite you to serve God by making phone calls to say "Hi! How're you doing?" to one another... and to people you know outside of your church family. You may never know it, but sometimes these calls are a lifeline to someone who is struggling against the ice storms of their private lives.

Certainly, the elders and deacons are making calls like these... But this is something we can all do to lift one another up – while lifting our own hearts to ever brighter places! When I was a young and bored teen my mom would tell me go visit/call an elderly aunt or uncle or neighbor. Truth be told, I wasn't very good at following through on that, but when I did, I heard the joy in their voice and came away from the time feeling upbeat – maybe even happy!

Come to think of it, the next two verses of Isaiah seem to underscore Mom's advice:

Yes, you will go out with celebration,
and you will be brought back in peace.
Even the mountains and the hills will burst into song before you;
all the trees of the field will clap their hands.
In place of the thorn the cypress will grow;
in place of the nettle the myrtle will grow.
This will attest to the LORD's stature,
an enduring reminder that won't be removed.

Winter can be a season full of crystalline beauty as well as one that can freeze our hearts in two inches of ice, cutting us off from the people and things we love. Yet even in the cold God's word is available to water us each day. And God's word encourages us to grow strong like the cypress and the myrtle so that in service to others we can attest to the Lord's stature.

May you go out into the wonders of winter in celebration of God's word! ~ Pastor Deb ~

Committee Reports

Building & Grounds — Hinda Ardrey, chair

We are asking people to volunteer to move tables, chairs, other furniture, and items to facilitate the carpet and floor tile cleaning. Moving will take place March 25-27th. Sign up sheet will be on the narthex white board.

The cleaning will be done during the week of March 28-April 1st. No meetings are scheduled or to be scheduled during that week. This cleaning task is long needed and beneficial to the care of God's house. Please contact me if you're willing to help.

We also are making a list of people with keys to our building. Our list includes name of person who has key(s) and to which doors. If you have any keys, please text me, call me, or leave me note in the office with that information. If you know someone who is no longer a congregational member who may have keys, please let me know that also. Thanks for your co-operation to help secure the building.

Christian Education – Lou LeMaster, chair

* On April 3rd, immediately after church, we will deliver assorted "goodies" to local FIRST RESPONDERS. Church members may bring donations on March 20th and March 27th.

*SPRING SING: On Saturday, May 21st, we will visit shut-ins and sing various traditional songs.

*We will have "goody bags" for the young ones at Easter. Included will be some kind of booklet or pamphlet that will explain in greater detail what Easter is all about.

We are working on weekly take home activities for the LENTEN SEASON.

Missions –Maggie Nussbaum, chair

One Great Hour of Sharing

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be collected during Lent from March 6th through April 17th. Envelopes will be on the table by the white church in the narthex.

This PC(USA) offering is shared with the ministries of the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Tri-Giving Offering

The mission committee agreed to continue the Tri-Giving offering. This offering supports three different local outreach programs. **During January through April, the offering supports The Fellowship of Christ's Community, the outreach program of Central Presbyterian Church.** They offer a meal and a time to socialize on Sunday late afternoon/ early evening. Sit-down meals are offered first, and later the guests may request meals to take home. A few of those who come for the meal stay for a worship service following the meal. The brown envelopes for the Tri-Giving offering can be found in the pew areas.

The ruling elders responsible for various aspects of TUPC

Building & Grounds	Hinda Ardrey
Music & Worship	Ray Mennaga
Christian Ed/Spiritual Life	Lou LeMaster
Nominating	Dave Purkey
Personnel/2 nd elder on Nominating	Lew Sidwell
Finance	Bill Miska
Mission	Maggie Nusbaum
Presbytery Representative	Mindy Patterson
Clerk	Tim Patterson
Congregational Representatives on Nominating	Nancy Killian, Dick Patterson
Additional Responder to Building & Grounds	Dale Vandenbark

PAST HAPPENINGS~

ST. VALENTINE'S DINNER was held February 13th immediately after church services. Menu included Johnny Marzetti dishes, salad, homemade bread, and assorted cookies. Bingo games and a Word Scramble, were played following the meal with prizes awarded. A word search was available to take home for a brain activity.

Thank you received

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and cards following my recent knee replacement. I appreciated them so much, and they helped to lift my spirits during a stressful time.

Jane Reed



ASHES TO ASHES...

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the 40-day liturgical season of Lent. We celebrate the day as the beginning of a special time to devote ourselves to remembering who we are as God's unruly children - and work to follow Jesus' way more closely in the future.

Ashing oneself in times of mourning or in shame has a long history in the Old Testament. In the early times of Christianity, faith leaders drew a cross using ashes on the foreheads of the faithful on the first day of Lent. This reminded them they had died to their old ways of living in favor of Christ's new way. The ashes symbolized their human frailty and hope that because Jesus had died for the forgiveness of their sins they need no longer fear separation from God through death.

In the 1500's this marking became associated with Roman Catholic rituals so fell out of favor with Protestant Christians. However, in the mid-Twentieth Century, some congregations revived the practice as a way to help deepen their faith reflections during the season. Since then, many, many Presbyterian, Methodist, Lutheran and Episcopal churches have readopted the ritual.

While we will not gather for a formal Ash Wednesday service this year, Pastor Deb is offering to mark the beginning of Lent for you with ashes. On Wednesday, March 2, between noon and 1:15pm, you'll find her in the Trinity chapel. There she'll pray with you and, if you like, place the mark of the cross on your forehead to remind you to reflect on your life ways as Jesus' disciple. To receive this prayerful mark, please enter through the door beside the labyrinth.

Lenten Study

Pastor Deb will be offering a Lenten Study based on the book *Forgiveness: A Lenten Study* by Marjorie Thompson. This is open to all who are interested. The invitation is from the Women's Bible Study, but men are also invited to join us.

When: Thursdays, beginning March 3rd through April 7th (or 14th, if needed)---10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon

Where: Tentatively in the Youth Room

Pastor Deb will be leading this study, but Maggie will lead any session in which Deb is not available.

Please see Maggie if you are interested or need more information. You do not need to order the book in order to participate in the study. We hope to have many of you join us for this 6 week study.

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER

TUPC has a number of people unable to attend physical church on a regular basis. Please remember them as well as the entire church family in your thoughts and prayers.

The current list includes: Bernie Baldwin, Denise Bunker, Arlene Crooks, John Dixon, Pat Fredrick, Dick & Margaret Keyes, Jackie Kolometz, Betty Linn, Ann Nichols, Kate Saunders, Ken & Gretchen Sayre and Nancy Thompson.

If you know of any changes that should be made to this list, please let us know.

Global Connection

NEWS FROM OUR MISSION PARTNER – CHOENA STOCK

Dear Trinity United Presbyterian Church,

February new year greetings to you! I hope you all are well, warm, and have enjoyed some snow on the ground these past weeks. Leandro was delighted to play in his first snowfall – snowman, snow angels and all.

Our partners, on the other hand, are in the sun of southern hemisphere summertime – closing academic years and preparing for new ones. The Evangelical Church of Peru's (IEP) Sicuani Seminary celebrated the graduation of 16 of its students in December. After the institution's closure for the entirety of 2020, this graduation was a blessing for these graduates.

As the IEP denomination celebrates every student and their perseverance during these challenging times, they also mourn the passing of Jesusa Chavez, a leader of the IEP's Women's League and a close friend and partner of the PC (USA). Jesusa was diagnosed with lymphoma cancer in August and was undergoing chemotherapy when she was infected with COVID-19 a month or so ago. Unfortunately, her body was not able to recover. We give thanks for her life, her faithful ministry to women and children, and her never-ending spirit and commitment to God's mission.

Our partners of the Peruvian Joining Hands Network are starting the new year by planning for their upcoming General Assembly in February and the strategic planning to come from that. We will continue to analyze the many interviews we carried out last year in order to continue to keep our ministry relevant and faithful to our mutual mission with our partners.

Thank you for your constant support and prayers throughout these years. We are grateful for your accompaniment as we continue to serve as God's hands and feet both locally and globally.

Peace and blessings,
Chenoa

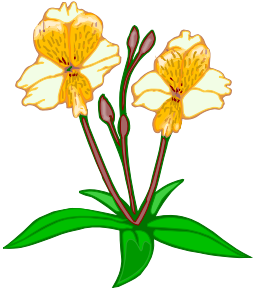


Leandro enjoying the snow



Jesusa Chavez – enjoying one of her many ministries, cooking.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



MARCH

- 2: Maria Johnson
- 8: *John & Donna Myers***
- 9: Jack Tysinger
- 11: Liz Grimm
- 14: *Raymond & Danelle Murphy*
- 15: Hinda Ardrey
- 18: Richard Patterson*
- 20: Kathy Hixson
- 23: *Keith & Lori Meadows*
- 25: Elizabeth Linn*
*Herbert and Shirley Hicks***
- 31: Julie Maneely
Macy Meadows

APRIL

- 1: Betty Ward*
- 3: Heidi Church
- 8: Bill Cook
Anna Johnson
- 14: Suzanne Mennega
Dora Taylor
- 17: *Keith & Patty Van Horn*
- 20: Linda Taylor
- 21: Cathie Jenkins
- 23: *Tim & Susan Thompson*
- 25: *Donald & Charlene Noland*
- 26: Laloni Tysinger
- 27: Katie Cook
Aaron Johnson
- 29: Margaret Keys*
- 30: Andrew Cook
Logan Maneely

*80 years or older
**Over 50 Years of Marriage
***Golden Anniversary

LOST AND FOUND!!

One Verizon flat black cell phone with a SIM card but NO battery. Found on top of the Weight Watchers storage cabinets when they were removed by the organization in December.

NEEDED ASAP

A team of people to take care of operating the new IPAD to record the church services. It is simple to operate and you need to be sure that it is staying in position and on during the service. Contact Jen Ardrey or Kris Beebe if you are interested in taking a turn

A Few Notes ~

- **Important!** —When you are leaving the building through a locked door or locking the door as you leave, please double check that it is really locked and be sure any lights you turned on are turned off. Thank you!
- **Triumph Information** needs to be emailed to: Kris at beebeacre@gmail.com Please put Triumph in the subject line. Any emails that arrive without subject titles are deleted for security purposes. May-June deadline is April 15.
- **Check out our website and Facebook** pages. Just google Trinity United Presbyterian Church and be sure it is in Zanesville, Ohio as there are numerous TUPC churches around the world!

Trinity United's mission is to make strong and committed followers of Jesus the Christ through life-long discipleship training, community involvement, and Christian fellowship.



We need the names and some information of those graduating from high school, higher learning or advanced training to honor probably in June. Please turn in to Kris Beebe, Bev LeMaster, Lou LeMaster by May 1, 2022– THANKS!!

Graduate name_____

High School/Higher Learning_____

Plans for the future_____

Parents, siblings, grandparents attending TUPC:

Just received this as I getting ready to email the Triumph this evening. This is NOT in the printed versions as they were printed on Friday and mailed this morning (February 26).

From Bill Miska

Hello to my Christian family at Trinity United Presbyterian Church. Thank you, thank you, thank you for your prayers and uplifting cards. When I went into the Genesis Hospital on February 7, I expected to be back home later that day with a couple of stints to correct blockages in my heart. Instead of coming home, I was admitted and had open heart surgery the very next morning, February 8. Three bypasses corrected my heart blockages. Thanks to your prayers, my recovery is going well. I returned home on February 15 and I will start cardio rehab at Genesis on March 1. The doctors say I will be back to mowing my lawn and going on bike rides with Joan when the weather turns warm. Hope to be back in church soon.

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