

Trinity Triumph

January/February 2021



LOOKING FORWARD

Level 2 Snow Emergency—If we are scheduled for in-person worship, the Session approved plan is as follows: If Muskingum County is on a Level 2 or 3 Snow Emergency at 8:00 a.m. on any Sunday, **all** activities at the church, including the worship service, will be canceled for that day. Please use your own judgment in making the decision to attend the worship service on a Level 1 day or if it is the day after a Level 2 or 3.

Sunday, January 17—Reports for the 2020 Annual Report are due by this date. See Notes and News inside for details.

PERU-PRESBYTERIAN PARTNERSHIP

Trinity Partnership with Chenoa Stock and her husband, José Luis Claure (Jose)--PC(USA) Mission Co-Workers in Peru



Chenoa and José with Leandro

Advent blessings, Trinity United Presbyterian Church,

We hope this finds you well and full of the hope, joy, peace, and love of Christmas.

As we near the end of the year, I want to thank you for your continued and faithful support of our ministry in Peru. Though mission has looked quite different this year, God continues to work through you all, our partners, and us in beautiful and life-affirming ways.

Our partners continue to reach out to vulnerable communities, especially during the Christmas season. You all of Trinity United PC are walking right alongside our partner, The House of God and its pastor, Pedro Pablo García. Your offering for the Children's Christmas Campaign is going toward gifting their Sunday School children (and other children of the community which they have supported throughout the pandemic) a Christmas toy, as well as a food basket for their family's Christmas dinner. The pandemic has created issues of food insecurity in Peru, so this gift will go a long way for these communities.

Pastor Pedro Pablo will send me more photos, which I will send on to you all, but I am attaching a couple he shared with me of their purchasing toys last week. Pedro Pablo is deeply grateful for your support and that God is using him and The House of God, with your partnership, to "care for neighbor in love and humility." Thank you for your financial gifts, your prayers, and your commitment to God's mission around the world.

Chenoa's column is continued in Trinity Serves.....

Pastor's Ponderings

Deb Bowsher



Dear Church,

Christina Rosetti's poem first appeared in *Scribner's Monthly* in January, 1872:

In the Bleak Mid-Winter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone...



My mind is wandering as I write this Pondering. It is still cold, bleak, early December and the Advent and Christmas hub-bub – such as it is - are blanketing me in a frost laden fog. Daylight continues on its descent to winter's solstice and January, 2021 seems as far away as does January, 1872.

Yet by the time you read this, you'll be able to say, "I survived the surreal existence that was 2020."

But was that all 2020 was: an unimaginable existence?

Scripture is replete with images of a simpler, more agrarian way of life:

- A dove returns to the Ark with a simple olive branch in its beak. (Genesis)



- Deserts rejoice and blossom (Isaiah 35)
- Abundant crops come by strength of the ox (Proverbs 14)
- Figs are not gathered from thorns (Luke 6)
- Choice flour and **wheat**, cattle and sheep (Revelation 18)

Such simple gifts of life did not fade from view in 2020. They blessed us with the familiar: Fruit trees still bore fruit. Rain fell and crops were harvested so people could eat...

Not that everyone was filled. Production was sometimes uneven. Supplies were sometimes back ordered.

Yet God spoke to our hearts and Trinity members responded by:

- Gathering up toiletries and mittens for people in need.
- Writing notes and phoning friends who needed to remain away from the public.
- Fixing soups to be given to those who underwent surgeries or became ill.
- Taking on the extra chores at the church building or sewed masks so that people could safely worship.
- Figuring out how to use technology with which to share the comforts of music with the world.



Like doves and figs, the members of this congregation fulfilled God's ordinary, extraordinary purpose in 2020 and did not fade from view.

Yet now we face the frosty winds and iron hard earth of January. And while there is at least one vaccine being administered to help bodies stave off this virus that has plagued us since last March... the water of life is still like stone - not yet gushing from rocks.

That said, I firmly believe that in God's good time the ice of mid-winter – and this pandemic - *will* melt and life will begin to feel a bit more natural, even if not "normal."

I also believe that, just as in 2020, God is still calling each of us to service. We are to be the bearers of the hope, peace, joy, and love that is Jesus Christ - so that everyone we meet might experience the wonder of these blessings.

To offer such gifts will take spiritual strength, strength developed through the discipline of prayer.



So, I offer to you a prayer for the New Year. I can't claim its composition. I came across it while sifting through some of my mother's old *Guideposts* magazines. It was written in 1973 – one hundred and one years after Christina Rossetti wrote her poem and forty-eight years before now. It's interesting how these "old" writings still speak to us today! May this prayer warm your heart and bless you as you begin each of the 365 days ahead.

Prayer for a Happy New Year

May the Lord make my New Year a happy one...

Not by shielding me from sorrow and pain, but by strengthening me to bear it if it comes.

Not by making my path easy, but by making me sturdy enough to tread any path.

Not by taking hardship from me, but by taking all cowardice and fear from my heart as I meet hardships.

Not by granting me unbroken sunshine, but by keeping my face bright even in the shadows.

Not by making my life always pleasant, but by showing me where men and His cause need me most and by making me zealous to be there and to help ...

God, make my year a happy one.

—*Guideposts Magazine* (January, 1973)

In Peace,
Deb.





“New Day Dawning”
Dr. Jim Schumacher

The year 2020 experienced what could most gently be described as “bad press”! Small wonder! Today’s children will tell Corona virus stories to future generations!

“Why, I remember when your grandmother and I had to wear a mask buying groceries!”

“It felt like we were robbing a 7/11 store!”

“What’s a 7/11 store?”

“Just let me tell you! You’ve got a lot to learn!”

That will be the upside! Hospitals filled to overflowing; hundreds of thousands dead and dying. Churches closed, making do with on-line services. Schools closed, with their students glued to computers, doing the best they could against great odds. What a story!

Corona’s just one of so many other issues! The greatest country on our planet divided over issues of race, violence, and immigration. An election so vitriolic some family members stopped speaking! No wonder we’re hurried moving on to 2021!

There have, of course, been other years with similar, but different problems.

Take 1968 as an example. I vividly recall driving the Dan Ryan Express Way in Chicago. Thick, black smoke billowed up from buildings burning on either side of the freeway. It was early morning. I hadn’t yet seen the news. When I got to seminary, I learned Martin Luther King, Jr. had been assassinated! That was a time to mourn. Back then, America was — again — in another struggle marked by race and blood. Nor was that the end! In months, another Kennedy would be killed — this time Robert Kennedy — as he candidates for the presidency. In Chicago, that year, Norman Lincoln Rockwell paraded through Skokie, Illinois with his American Nazi party. Talk about a year! My family wanted to know if we ought to dig a fallout shelter, protecting us against a Soviet attack!

While all of that was going on, I preached what was either my best, or the worst of all the sermons I ever delivered. As I recall, I titled it, “A Long Day’s Journey into Light.” The outline was simple (at least that’s what I thought). I began describing how awful the year had been. The second part of that sermon talked about the strength Christian faith provides and the great things ahead. When I stop to think about it, our American space program was really gearing up. Our astronauts had circumnavigated the moon. Within a year, Americans would set foot on the lunar surface. BUT!! Before I could get to the more optimistic part of that meditation, one of my church members dramatically rose from his pew, opining, “We don’t need preachers telling us how bad things are!! And, with that, he and his family stomped out of our building!

After the service, I hurried to my parishioners' home. Fortunately, I had a complete manuscript of the service to share with them. After a fair amount of verbal jousting, it was generally agreed that in order to see a great light, sometimes you also need to talk about shadows. And that's where we left it.

I'm not sure every preacher really needs moments like that. I really can't say I enjoyed it very much at the time. On the other hand, it did get me ready for 2020!

Maybe now we're ready for the light! Several vaccines are on the way and — in a matter of months — will be ready. What a difference that will surely make.

As a ten-year-old, Mom and Dad told me my little brother was diagnosed with polio. I didn't understand the real danger at the time. I do remember Dick wound up in Cleveland's Metro General Hospital for months. Not only did he survive, but lived to become one of Indianapolis's best heart specialists. Against that background, then, you'll understand how much Jonas Salk's development of his anti-polio vaccine meant to our family back then. Much the same will be true for all of us as these new immunizations are administered.

Indeed, there IS light at the end of this tunnel.

Still, in order for that to work, we need our faith, don't we? When the day seems darkest, that's when we need our trust in God. God did not give us a spirit of despair. Indeed, the opening part of our Christian bible is called "the Gospels." Gospels, ("Euangellion" in Greek), is the announcement of good news. In particular, the gospel is the announcement that Jesus' life, death, and resurrection have brought about salvation for Israel and the world.

We get so wrapped up in our particular pains that we miss God's big picture. John's Gospel starts by insisting that God so loved the world that God gave God's only begotten Son so that those who believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16). To be a follower of Christ is to believe that is not only true for us, but for the whole of God's people in all time and every place.

The Good News is, God's not through with us. The Lord remains our strength and our shield. Paul would write,

Romans 8:37–39 (NRSV): ³⁷ In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The year 2020 was not the year of our dreams. Years ago, American playwright Eugene O'Neil published a partly autobiographical play about the darkness of addiction and the loss of hope. O'Neil titled his work, "A Long Day's Journey into Night." Long ago, I meditated on the darkness of his vision in my sermon. Then, as now, I believe ours is in very fact not a journey into darkness but rather into light. In this regard, I base that hope on some important lines from St. John's retelling of the Gospel of our Lord:

John 1:1–5 (NRSV): ¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Welcome to 2021!

Staying Connected at Trinity

Sermons and Special Music: The sermons and special music from each Sunday's worship service can be found on the church website – www.trinityup.org .

Newsletter Information: If you have information for the newsletter, please e-mail Maggie Nussbaum at nussmargan27@gmail.com , phone her at (740)-455-2004, text or call her at (740) 517-5779, or place a note in her mail slot in the office.

Bulletin Information, Concerns, Comments, or Questions: If you have information for the church bulletin, or if you wish to contact Pastor Deb, please call the church office at (740)-452-8482, call her cell at (614)-309-0417, or e-mail her at revdebbowsher@gmail.com .

Trinity Website

The Trinity website contains information about our church, sermons and special music from each Sunday's worship service, newsletters, photos, and other items of interest. You will also find a short profile of Chenoa Stock, the mission co-worker in Peru (formerly in Bolivia) whom we support, as well as pictures and additional newsletters she sends us on a regular basis. Check out the website at www.trinityup.org .

Follow Trinity on Social Media

Trinity has a social media presence with an official Facebook page. If you are a Facebook user please like and follow us.

This link will take you directly to Trinity's Facebook page.

https://www.facebook.com/Trinity-United-Presbyterian-Church-117185184968159/?ref=br_rs

Notes and News

Notice: 2020 Giving Statements

If you would like a Giving Statement for 2020, please contact the church office, or contact Frank Walburg at 740-704-1426 or fwalburg@yahoo.com .

Per Capita for 2021—Per capita for 2021 is \$30.59. This supports our denomination's work at the presbytery, synod, and general assembly. Those members who are able to contribute their per capita help to ease this payment from the general fund.

Annual Reports—Reports for the 2020 Annual Report to the Congregation are due no later than Sunday, January 17, 2021. They can be placed on the office desk, or they can be emailed to fwalburg@yahoo.com .

Notes from Members

~~A thank you for all the cards, notes, and calls I received from the members of Trinity.

Thank you,
Betty Linn

And the sermons still keep coming. Thank you!

~~Many thanks to Pastor Deb, for prayers, for cards, for gifts, for calls.

From Arlene Crooks

~~Take care and God Bless. Miss you all.

As always,
Pat (Frederick)

Other Notes of Appreciation

We also received notes of gratitude for our continuing support from Christ's Table, Eastside Community Ministry, The Fellowship of Christ's Community, and the Salvation Army.

A Giant Thank You—Thank you to Dedi Spargrove and Melissa Cook for coordinating and to all who helped to decorate outside of the church and in the narthex and sanctuary. Even though we were not meeting in person for the services during Advent, the beautiful sights of Christmas in the sanctuary added much to the Advent videos. The decorations were also enjoyed by the small groups which met in the parlor and by those who stopped by the church for a variety of reasons. Speaking of Advent services, thank you to those who participated in the production of the videos. Many members were part of the music, readings, or Advent candle lighting during this season or for the service for Christmas Eve. A huge thank you goes to all who spent hours on the taping and technical production of these Trinity videos, especially Kathy Hixson, Mindy Patterson, and Tim Patterson for the taping and posting of many special music numbers during the pandemic.

In addition, there have been many volunteers who have taken on new or additional tasks for Trinity since our lives were changed by the pandemic. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all who have volunteered their time and talents on an ongoing or occasional basis in support of Trinity and its family members.

Surprising News from Pastor Deb

Dear Church,

Several weeks ago, a call from Muskingum Valley's Presbytery nominating committee caught me very off guard. They asked me to stand for election to the post of 2021 Vice Moderator and then stand for election in 2022 to the Moderator's role.

After much prayerful consideration, I polled the session members to determine what pros and cons they saw. Surprisingly, the majority were comfortable with the idea that I take this volunteer work on. With their thoughts in mind, I agreed to serve.

It is very important you to know that because I firmly believe my first and topmost responsibilities are to you, the people of TUPC, if I find I cannot fulfill the duties to the presbytery I will step down from the Moderator's role.

Though we are all called to serve the church, I am very surprised I was asked to serve in this way. I'm still fairly new to this presbytery. However, the committee felt I had enough presbytery experience in other jurisdictions to prepare me for the work. They also told me that in addition to the four general presbytery meetings I now attend each year, I would attend six council meetings and share in the Moderator's duties in installations and ordinations of pastors here.

God always has surprises for us!

In Peace,
Deb.

Trinity Serves Our Local and Global Neighbors

SOUPer Bowl—The proceeds of the 2020 “No Show” SOUPer Bowl were divided among Eastside Community Ministry, Christ’s Table, The Fellowship of Christ’s Community, Muskingum County Center for Seniors, and the Salvation Army. With the sale of “No Show” tickets and church and corporate sponsorship and donations, \$11,350.00 was collected. In addition, approximately \$3,000 worth of canned goods were collected in churches or dropped off at Secrest the day of the “No Show” SOUPer Bowl, giving a total of monetary and food donations of \$14,350.00.

Thanksgiving Offering—We collected \$640.00 in our Thanksgiving Offering for Children in Peru. This was split between the House of God Presbyterian Church in Lima, which used their portion to purchase Christmas gifts for the children and food for their families, and The School for the Children who are Deaf (in the jungle area of Moyobamba). Pictures from the House of God can be found following the conclusion of Chenoa’s note to Trinity.

Below is a note of gratitude from Pedro Pablo, pastor of the House of God Presbyterian Church:

Dear Friends,

With this letter, I would like to thank each of you for your love and generosity. Thanks to your support of the House of God Christmas Campaign, we were able to deliver 60 toys and 50 Christmas food baskets to children and families who live in vulnerable situations. The children did not only receive a toy, but also food for their family’s Christmas dinner. We hope that God will continue to use you to walk with us in our goals and mission for the next year. Please pray for our faith community, House of God. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a blessed 2021!

Your servant,
Pedro García

Stocking Tree—Although we have not been meeting in person, the “Stocking Tree” in the narthex has been overflowing with scarves, mittens, gloves, socks, and hats which will help our neighbors keep warm this winter. Thank you to all who have contributed items which will be delivered to the Salvation Army in late December or early January



Christmas Joy PC (USA) Offering—Thank you to all who have participated in this offering, which provides assistance to current and former church workers and their families. The offering is also used to support leadership development and education through Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color and leadership development efforts of the Racial Equity Office of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Adopt-A-Child—This year with monetary donations and with Charlene Noland and Bev and Lou LeMaster shopping, we were able to buy gifts for two Angel Tree children. We spent approximately \$150 on each child. Then with additional donations, we were able to donate \$200 to the Adopt-A-Child program through Children's Services. This money goes to local foster children, and because we gave a monetary donation, they were able to buy gifts for several children who had not been chosen from the list. Thank you very much to everyone who donated time or money!

Caroling, Caroling on the Snow Covered Ground—A small, but mighty group of carolers (Kris Bebee, Deb Bowsher, Bev and Lou LeMaster, and Maggie Nussbaum), stopped to carol with social distancing at the homes of some of our members on Saturday, December 19th. It was a joy to see the smiling faces of those we haven't seen for quite some time.

Snacks for First Responders—Boxes of pre-wrapped snacks were delivered to nine places including the city fire stations, the sheriff's office and county jail, ambulances services, the First Putnam House Overnight Shelter, Genesis Health Care System, and Genesis Hospice/Palliative Care on December 23rd. Thank you to all who dropped off the goodies at the church and to Joan and Bill Miska, Kay and Dale Vandembark, Bev and Lou LeMaster, and Maggie Nussbaum for delivering the boxes. Maggie received an email from the administrative assistant at Genesis Hospice telling us the staff members were loving the snack boxes we brought and that they were gobbling the treats up. She could tell in their voices that they were happy to have the kind and tasty gift delivered. The recipients at all locations expressed their gratitude as the boxes were delivered.

Peru-Presbyterian Partnership—Continued from Page 1

On a personal note, we would like to ask you for your prayers. After nine months of waiting for the US Embassy in Bolivia to open, Jose was finally scheduled for his green card interview! Due to paperwork that needs to be completed before the interview next month, we will be traveling to Bolivia this Thursday (December 17th). If all goes well, we should be back in Peru on January 28th. We ask prayers for safe travels, smooth processing, and productive timing! Thank you!

As we celebrate Jesus' birth, his Light in the world, and his life of embodying God's unconditional love and justice, we give thanks for your strong partnership with our ministry and partners here in Peru. God is certainly moving through each of us, even, and especially, during the pandemic.

May God's Light shine in each of us this Advent and Christmas season.

Peace and hope,
Chenoa

The House of God Presbyterian Church in Lima, Peru, gathers and distributes toys and food for the children and their families.



Chocolatada!

***A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION FROM PERU
ON ZOOM—January 6, 2021 at 6 pm (EST)***

*For many of us in the United States, the Christmas season culminates on December 25th. In other parts of the world, like in Peru, the Christmas celebration is only just beginning and then comes to completion on **January 6th, Epiphany**, when the 3 Kings arrive to the manger.*

*This day, known as the **Bajada de Reyes**, is often celebrated with music, small gifts for children, and a **chocolatada!** What is a **chocolatada**? As you might discern from the word, it involves chocolate - namely, hot chocolate! Our partners in Peru want to celebrate it with us!*

Join us on January 6 at 6pm Peru time (6pm EST/5pm CST in the USA) to celebrate the arrival of the Three Kings. We will hear pre-recorded messages and music from partners in Cusco, and San Martin. We will also be joined by Pastor Pedro Pablo Garcia of the House of God Presbyterian Church in Lima. Pastor Pedro has been instrumental in orchestrating dozens of community kitchens in the more impoverished areas of Lima throughout the pandemic and will tell us how Christ has been born into the world again in Peru and how we can honor him from afar with the gifts we have to share. Our mission co-workers in Peru will be hosting the event and translating as needed.

This event is being organized by the Peru Mission Network and our Mission Co-Workers in Peru, Jed Koball and Chenoa Stock.

*Well see you then! **And**, don't forget to bring your Hot Chocolate!!!*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82823797349>



January Birthdays and Anniversaries

3: David Johnson
5: Alyssa Foster
Katlyn Vandebark

7: Mark Patterson

11: Lucinda Ardrey
Lisa Bates
Lew Sidwell
Barbara Smith*
*Larry & Linda Good***

12: Jennifer DeLong-Baldwin

13: Ray Mennega
Raymond Murphy

17: C.J. Allison
*Richard & Genevieve Krebs***

18: Gabriel Brown

19: Jared Cox
Shirley Hicks*
Phil MacLaine
Lou & Bev LeMaster

20: Julie Howell

21: Margaret McConnell*

26: Lane Maneely

29: Dorothy Allison*

31: Seth Grimm
Dorbie Littick*

* 80 years or older

** Over 50 Years of Marriage

*** Golden Anniversary

If you notice a missing birthday or anniversary,
please notify the church office.

Unable to Attend

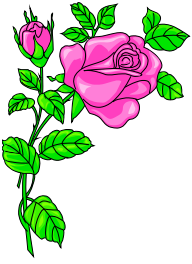
Helen Purcell: Ann Nicholas

Primrose: Graham Robb, Kate Saunders

Home: John Dixon

Home: Clara Mae Hansen

Home: Dorbie Littick



February Birthdays and Anniversaries

2: Susan Robison

* 80 years or older

7: Nancy Killian
Julie Vandebark

** Over 50 Years of Marriage

*** Golden Anniversary

8: Bernie Baldwin*

10: Becky Welch

If you notice a missing birthday or anniversary,
please notify the church office.

11: Kasey Lenhart

14: Lisa Parsons

Unable to Attend:

17: Merle Taylor*

Helen Purcell: Ann Nicholas

18: Clay Foster
Lori Meadows

Primrose: Graham Robb, Kate Saunders

Home: John Dixon

21: Dave Foster
Richard Krebs*
Kori Sidwell

Home: Clara Mae Hansen

Home: Dorbie Littick

23: *Bill & Joan Miska***

27: *Craig & Teresa Baldwin*

Trinity United Presbyterian Church

830 Military Road
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(740) 452-8482

www.trinityup.org



**Building Faith-Filled
Lives!**

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.

Worship: 10:30 a.m.

