

Trinity Tidings

An Inviting Community Following Christ For Life

Volume 52, Issue 10

November 2019

Give More Praise

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

There is a story told of the great 19th century British military leader who defeated Napoleon at Waterloo, Field Marshal Arthur Wellesley, who later became the Duke of Wellington as he neared the end of his life. Though brilliant, Wellesley was said to be demanding and would never shower compliments on his subordinates. In his old age, a young lady asked him what, if anything, he would do differently if he had his life to live over again. Wellesley, after a moment of serious thought, replied: "I would give more praise."

We often live in a world where gratitude is on short supply, where thanks is often offered conventionally, but perhaps not with much thought. We were taught as children to say, "Thank you," but to be thankful is a longer lesson to learn.

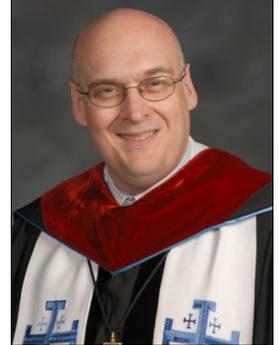
As we pass from October to November, there is much for us to be grateful for as Trinitarians. The shared worship with Adath Emanu-El was a joyous weekend. Welcoming our Palestinian brother, the Reverend Alex Awad, was also a week of learning and being challenged to think broadly about the impact of our faith on the wider world—for that I'm grateful. Surely all our hearts are full of thanks for the worship of these last months and the beauty those moments have brought to our lives. For children singing in worship and for youth learning about the Bible, for Presbyterian Women circles discussing their faith and for the men's groups studying God's Word together---all reasons for us to stop and say: Thanks be to God!

Of course, I know that we leave October with heavy-hearts as tragedy has also marked our nation and not only our nation, but many nations also suffer from great hardships. We often wonder what can we do. We want to do some thing and surely we must be people who pray but who also act for the good of our world. *Ora et labora* is the motto of Benedictine monks and nuns around the world: *Pray and work*.

And as you and I pray, let us not forget to give thanks for all the good God has given us. Let us praise God more. As we enter the Thanksgiving season, in the midst of suffering and also surrounded by many blessings, let us give thanks and spend our time praying and working and also praising God more and more. If we do that, we will all have good cause to be...

Hoping Big,

Gregory



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

Associate Pastor
The Rev. Ms. Sarah
Craven

Parish Associate
The Rev. Mr. Barry
Gruver

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**Music
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Alysia Sieh Badskey

**Membership
Associate**
Pam Dougherty

Property Manger
Larry Hall

**Director of
Nursery School**
Marina Pappas

Trinity's Music News



YOU CAN MAKE MUSIC AT TRINITY!



Adult Choir Rehearsal

Wednesdays at 7:30 pm



Adult Bell Rehearsal

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm



Children's Rehearsals

Cherub Choir – Pre-K and Kindergarten;

Thursday 4:30-5:00pm

Carol Choir – 1st and 2nd grade;

Thursday 5:00-5:40pm

Team Choir – 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade; Thursday 5:40-6:20pm

Team Bells – 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade; Thursday 6:20-6:50pm

Youth Rehearsals

Youth Choir – 6th -12th grade; Sundays 10:50am-11:30am

Youth Bell Ensemble 6th -12th grade; Sundays 11:30-noon

Youth Instrumental Ensemble 6th -12th grade;

Rehearsal Dates to be Announced

Trinity Band and Mahalo Ukulele Band

Rehearsal Dates to be Announced



Please call the church office at 428-2050 or e-mail Lisa Marcelli,
Director of Music, at lisa.marcelli@trinpres.org for more
information.



Trinity Community Concert Series Presents Atlantic Brass Band



Friday, December 7, 2018 * 7:30 PM

Get into the holiday spirit with the three-time national champion Atlantic Brass Band, one of the premier volunteer performing ensembles in the greater Philadelphia/Southern New Jersey area. This traditional British-style brass band has a repertoire that includes hymns, marches, orchestral transcriptions, pop music, and traditional brass band literature—and, of course, music to help TCCS attendees kick off the holiday season!

And save the date for the last concert in our 2018-2019 season:

The Wind Symphony of Southern New Jersey * Sunday, March 24, 2019 * 4:00 PM

Our concerts are open to all! Admission is a free-will offering.
A reception with light refreshments will follow each concert.



Trinity Presbyterian Church (USA)
499 Route 70 East * Cherry Hill, NJ 08034
(856) 428-2050 * trinpres@trinpres.org
www.trinpres.org



Trinity News and Notes



In Memoriam

Robert F. Butterfoss

United with Trinity February 9, 1958; Died October 13, 2018

Richard L. Leickel

United with Trinity November 8, 2015; Died October 18, 2018

We extend our sympathies to Paul Butterfoss on the death of his father, Bob Butterfoss.

We extend our sympathies to Alice Buda and family on the death of her daughter, Susan Ritchie.

Baptisms

We rejoice with Willemijn Don Goetz and Kurt Goetz on the baptism of their son Lucas Turnbull Goetz

Congratulations

Congratulations to Michael and Christa Timpano who were married on September 29. Congratulations also to parents, Kim and Steve Timpano and grandparents, Natalie and Ed Mitchell.

Thank You...

A huge thank you for all of those members that supplied baked goods and other finger foods for the coffee hour following the special service on September 30th. It was a great weekend and all of your help is much appreciated. Special thanks to Bonnie Jones who helped with the set up and also the clean up.

Session Update

At its stated meeting on October 1, 2018, the Session:

- Did a Bible study on Acts 6: 1-7.
 - Thanked Katie Carboni for her service as Elder and wished her well in her new work.
 - Received updates on the start of programming in the new church year.
 - Received an update about the Finance and Stewardship Committee's work to rebalance investment funds.
 - Approved a new investment policy.
 - Heard a report about the most recent Presbytery meeting, noting the number of Trinity staff and members who are involved in the work of the Presbytery.
 - Approved funding installation of security cameras.
 - Learned of this year's Nominating Committee members and the start of their work.
 - Reviewed the schedule of the Presbytery's Peacemaker, the Rev. Alex Awad, and approved the use of the Session Fund to support hospitality during his visit.
 - Prayed for members and friends.
- Margery N. Sly, Clerk of Session



Session of Elders

Clerk of Session

Margery Sly

Adult Ministries

Larry Miller

Children's Ministries

Nancy Roberts

Finance & Stewardship

Donna Croker

Membership

Kris Parsons

Mission & Outreach

Julie Blair

Personnel

Brian Dougherty

Property & Buildings

Walt Steinle

Worship & Music

Steve Talbott

Youth Ministries

Donna Allen

Strategy Committee

Margery Sly

Technology Committee

Tom Earp

Deacons

Moderator of Deacons

Mike D'Amico

Committee Chairs

Assistance

Jenny Leitinger,

Hersch Craven

Fellowship

Rob Bailey

Service

Randy Southworth

Visitation

Audrey Azevedo

Adult Education

- November 4 – Communion education for 1st – 6th graders will be lead by Rev. Sarah Craven. Communion education for adults will be lead by Rev. Greg Faulkner.
- November 11 – The Value of Water will be presented by John Young and Gary Naumick. John will discuss his work in Flint, Michigan and Puerto Rico.
- November 18 – Barbara Wilson will help us learn about Facebook and Instagram.
- November 25 – Rev. Greg Faulkner will present his rescheduled program Sing to the Lord A New Song.

Our programs will be held on Sundays at 11 am in Witherspoon Center. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come.

Deacons Coat Drive

Deacons' Coat Drive The deacons will be collecting new and gently used adult and children's coats during till the end of November (**Sunday November 25th**). We particularly need children's coats to be given to the Little Hands Little Feet program at St. Andrews United Methodist Church. Adult coats are also welcome and are given to the Interfaith Homeless Outreach Council (IHOC), the R&M Boarding Home, and Cathedral Kitchen for distribution to those in need of warm coats for the fall and winter seasons. Coat collection bins will be located in Fellowship Hall. All donations will be greatly appreciated.



Deacons Christmas Sharing



The Deacons are pleased to announce the return of the Christmas Sharing Program for 2018. Please visit the Deacons' table in Fellowship Hall during **coffee hour starting Sunday, November 18th**. At the table, you can sign up to buy a Christmas gift for a child from Urban Promise or a client from Robins' Nest. When you sign up, a form with specific gift suggestions will be provided to help you complete your shopping. Gifts may be returned to the **church beginning November 25th and will be accepted until noon on December 16th**. Gifts for Robins' Nest should be returned wrapped, while gifts for Urban Promise should be brought to the church unwrapped. Please contact Hersch Craven

herschcraven@aol.com or Jenny Leitinger jerseyjenny13@gmail.com with any questions, and thank you for your generous support!

Children's Ministries

Church School

Again this year the Children's Ministries will sponsor an **Advent Festival on December 2nd**. We will have crafts and food for the children in the Anti room. We will also again this year collect hats, mittens and scarfs for people who need a little warmth. **We will have the Trees of Warmth in the Fellowship Hall and also in Witherspoon building on November 25.** We thank you in advance for your support!

Our children will also be making tee shirts the on November 25 during Sunday School for children who are experiencing medical issues.



Nursey School

We are all happy that fall has decided to start making an appearance outside, mainly so our inside walls can mirror the outside foliage! We have switched out our red apple trees for orange, brown and yellow fall leaves, pumpkins, and scarecrows. Our Not Too Spooky Halloween Parades were a big hit! The costumes were wonderful and we had lots of extended family members and siblings join us for the festivities!!

We are looking forward to our annual Thanksgiving feast of Chicken nuggets and tater tots... and delicious fall apples! It is a wonderful time of year at Trinity as the children, and parents, are all settled in to the routine and the tears have stopped. We have happy faces and cheerful voices greeting us in the halls each morning.

Our halls will be decorated with our students' artwork and will include fall foliage, sunflowers and fingerprint pumpkin patches. We have openings in our Mon Wed 2½ class. Please come tour the school and enjoy the artwork displayed in the hallways. The teachers are hard at work planning all the festive projects as we enjoy the fall season inside and out!

Contact us at marina.pappas@trinpres.org or 856-795-3123 for a tour.
Marina Pappas

Trinity continues with...

MIXERS & MISSION

Who: Trinity's Teens and Tweens
(6th-12th grades)

When: Once a month

Where: Trinity and the community

Fall Details:

*10/7/18 11:45 am Lunch at Trinity followed by
CROP Walk*

*11/11/18 12 noon Lunch and Bingo at Barclay's
Rehab*

12/2/18 2:00 pm Elf at Lisa & Joe Marcelli's home

We hope you can join us this fall.....
once, twice or for all 3 activities.
Community Service points are available...

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact
Lisa Marcelli at lisa.marcelli@trinpres.org
or
Sarah Craven at sarah.craven@trinpres.org

Trinity's Annual Stewardship Campaign

Stepping Out in Faith

Trinity's Annual Stewardship Campaign was initiated on October 21. The theme for this year's Stewardship Campaign is "**Stepping Out in Faith**". This theme was selected to reflect the actions needed by all of us to fully enable all the ministries and mission that we have been called to provide as a Church. Recently, your Church leadership adjusted our Church budget to allow for proper maintenance of our facilities, adequate compensation of the Church's pastoral and office staff and increased support of mission. Each Sunday during this campaign, your Session leadership will address these topics and explain why it is important to stretch our resources beyond our current income level to meet these important needs. By doing this, we are trying to heed Christ's call to step out in faith so our ministry might impact more lives. We hope that you carefully consider these needs of the Church and your generous financial support as we undertake this journey of faith. Stewardship Sunday is November 18.

Stewardship Talk Week 1 Presented by John Young on 10.21.2018

It is my pleasure to kick-off Trinity's Annual Stewardship Campaign. And you're thinking, it's already that time of year again – Oh boy! How are they going to put a new twist on the old stewardship story this year? Well, I've had the privilege of participating in a number of Trinity's stewardship efforts over the years. And, I can categorically say that the commitment and needs driving this year's stewardship campaign has been more thoroughly debated, well defined and faith driven than any program or budget in the past. More on that later.

Developing and managing a Church budget and finances is a somewhat unique challenge. In my professional life, I've been the COO of a large, national utility, consulted on some of the largest municipal bankruptcies in the United States (including the financial mess and devastation currently in Puerto Rico), and served on several Corporate and non-profit Boards. However, these experiences did little to prepare me for Church finances. In the Corporate world you receive direction from numerous shareholders and executives with differing opinion. In the municipal world, you're confronted with politicians who often create confusion and support diverse approaches to how money should be spent. However, here at Trinity, we have a single shareholder and he makes it relatively simple for us by writing down all the rules that should direct our ministry, programs and spending. So its simple enough – what we need to do is read, listen, understand and act. But it's not so simple because this makes our budget process one of both numbers and faith. Faith in God, faith in Trinity and frankly, faith in each of you.

This year your Session took a "leap of faith". As Rev. Faulkner mention in a sermon several months ago, Trinity's Session recognized that despite some of our budget challenges and constraints, we need to heed Christ's call when establishing the ministry and mission of Trinity. These obligations included:

Taking care of God's house by properly maintaining our facilities, taking care of the people that support God's house by properly compensating the Church's pastoral and office staff, and, increasing our mission programs

Over the next three weeks your Session leadership will address each of these topics – staff, facilities and mission – and explain why it is important to stretch our resources beyond our current income levels to meet these important needs. Our theme for this year's campaign is appropriately "Stepping out in Faith". Your Church leadership has done just that but our steps can only land on solid ground with your support. I thank you for carefully considering the messages you hear during this stewardship campaign, their impact on the future of your Church and your contribution in our journey of faith.

Stewardship Talk Week 2

Presented by Nancy Valente on 10.28.2018

I have had the privilege of working on the Personnel Committee for the past five years or so. The Personnel Committee takes seriously the performance review and evaluation of the entire staff. We meet with each staff member and discuss the past year's challenges and goals. One theme I see year after year is how much the staff enjoys working at Trinity and especially how much they care for each other and go out of their way to help each other. It's a little micro family within the larger church family.

As you are all aware, our pastors are THE best! Speaking from my own experience and witnessing others, they go above and beyond when it comes to helping us, our children and even our parents. And they are essentially "on call" at all hours of the day or night, often sacrificing time with their own families. Each pastor, music and office staff work hard so that we (Trinity members) can get the most out of the wonderful worship, programs and activities that Trinity offers. The office staff supports the pastors as well as keeping the office running efficiently. If they were working in the corporate world, they would be getting great reviews, promotions and big salary increases!

However, at Trinity, the staff salaries are determined based on the annual budget, which is based on all of our contributions. There were many years that no increases could be given, and some tough decisions were made over the years to reduce staff hours or eliminate positions due to budget constraints. Yet the staff knows there is a greater purpose to serve and continues their heartfelt dedication to making Trinity the best it can be.

So, as you consider your stewardship for the coming year, please keep the staff in mind. Your generous contribution to Trinity will go a long way in ensuring our staff are compensated fairly for their work and dedication. Thank you.



Care n' Share

Care n Share is having a very busy Fall, despite heat & rain, thanks to all of your great donations! Remember to make sure all of your house wares and clothing are clean and SERVICEABLE - no missing parts.



Care n' Share

Items may be dropped off during our regular business hours; Tuesdays, Thursdays and the "first Saturday" of the month (November 3) from **10 am to 1pm**. Also, one of our volunteers will be in the shop on Sunday mornings following the 9:30 Worship service to receive your donations. Tax receipts are available.

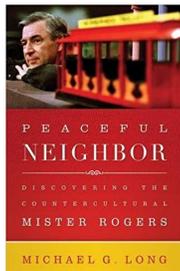
We are still looking for a few new volunteers to work in Care n Share... We are flexible...approximately 3 hours a week. marking and displaying all the items we receive. Great fellowship and fun!

Eileen Rankin email eileenrank@comcast.net

Library Corner

This month we are featuring two new additions to the adult section of our Trinity Library which focus on helping children to develop compassion for others.

Peaceful Neighbor



Discovering the Counter Cultural Mister Rogers

By Michael G. Long

Mister (Fred) Rogers was an ordained Presbyterian minister who was an active member of the Sixth Presbyterian Church even during his years as a TV "personality." His acclaimed show, *Mister Roger's Neighborhood*, ran for three decades, beginning in 1968, and averaged 3.5 viewers per week. The program was geared toward toddlers aged 2 to 5, but the viewership often included older siblings and their parents.

The author's thesis is that the program was much more than a feel good trip to "the kingdom of make believe" for small children. While Fred Rogers did not verbally express his religious beliefs, the situations he presented, through real people and puppets, were based on profound theological convictions and directed toward helping children to experience the love of God.

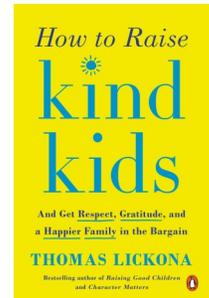
Each of the chapters in the book is based on a theme from the Mister Rogers programs. The titles themselves illustrate the author's point:

- "War Isn't Nice"
- "I Like You"/"Just the Way You Are"
- "It's OK to be Angry"
- "Food for the World"
- "I'm Tired of Being a Lady"
- "Take Care of This Wonderful World"

The book is extensively researched and contains pictures from the actual programs, as well as a bibliography and an index. Readers who recall watching the shows themselves, or settling their children in front of the TV to watch, will find that it brings back fond memories.

How to Raise Kind Kids And Get Respect, Gratitude, and a Happier Family in the Bargain

By Thomas Lickona



Thomas Lickona, PhD, is a developmental psychologist and professor of education who has written eight previous books about bringing up children. He believes that, in addition to teaching the 3Rs in school, we should teach a 4th and 5th R—Respect and Responsibility. The dedication to the book reads "to everyone who is working to create a kinder world."

"Today's children are faced with a plethora of distractions, especially from electronics, which can affect their ability to listen and be sensitive to the presence of others." Lickona's book is intended as a guide to help parents overcome these distractions and nurture kinder kids and happier families. Advice is based on examples drawn from families the author has worked with over the years and on extensive recent research.

Some of the chapters and topics in the book are general—what is kindness? why does it matter? Does our culture value it? Others are specific "how to" recommendations—5 key principles for creating a positive family culture; 10 essential virtues that help kids be kind; 10 ways to cut the complaining and practice gratitude.

If you would like us to purchase a particular book for the Trinity Library, stop by on Sunday or contact Dottie Dunfee (dunfeet@aol.com).

PW November 2018 Circle Meetings

Monday, November 19th

| | | |
|-----------|----------------|--------------------|
| 1:00 p.m. | Deborah Circle | Home of Alice Buda |
| 7:00 p.m. | Ruth Circle | TBD |

Tuesday, November 13th

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 7:00 p.m. | Shiphrah Circle | Home of Nancy Lind |
|-----------|-----------------|--------------------|

Tuesday, November 20th

| | | |
|-----------|----------------|---------------------|
| 7:15 p.m. | Rebekah Circle | Home of Elissa Goss |
|-----------|----------------|---------------------|

Wednesday, November 21st

| | | |
|-----------|------------------|---------------------|
| 9.30 a.m. | Miriam Circle | Witherspoon |
| 1:00 p.m. | Priscilla Circle | Home of Neola Reese |



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

PW Reminder Board

PERSONAL HYGIENE SAMPLES TO AID LOCAL SHELTERS

Travel Size
Toiletries



CALLING ALL TRAVELERS -- PW MISSIONS will be collecting single use travel-size items like those distributed at hotels, motels and resorts. Requested items include unopened soap, shampoo, lotion, toothpaste, mouthwash, deodorant, shaving supplies and other personal items.

Samples will be donated to Volunteers of America for use at local shelters. Two local shelters in Camden are Anna Sample Complex and Aletha R. Wright "Vision of Hope" Center. Since our members are so generous, we also will be donating to the Migrant Worker Outreach program this year. Look for our basket (Soap for Hope) under the PW

Bulletin Board (between Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall) to place donations during OCTOBER and until NOVEMBER 11. We appreciate your support. Please contact Jan Caffrey (856) 667-3687 or jancaff@verizon.net with questions.

Daytime Men's Group

A TRIP TO CUBA !!



Everyone is invited to join the **Trinity Daytime Men's Group** on a short trip to Cuba with our very own Margery Sly. Margery will share with us her work to preserve the history of the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba. I know Margery will be happy to answer our questions about the people and the overall conditions of our neighbor to the south.

Our meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday November 20th 2018**. We start at **10 AM in the Witherspoon Building** with gourmet coffee prepared by Bill Greenwood and special sweet treats. Come early and enjoy some stimulating conversation. You will know this is truly a **SUPER COLOSSAL DAY**. ALL Men and Women are invited to hear this once in a lifetime trip to Cuba! See you then.

Nativity Walk

Join us for the Third Annual Trinity Nativity Walk! The Membership Committee is planning the Nativity Walk to take place after worship on **Sunday, December 16th**. Bring in your favorite crèche before the service that morning and set it up in the designated location in Fellowship Hall. During Coffee

Hour, members of the congregation will walk around to view the various nativity scenes. Whether it's a clothes pin crèche made by your children at Church School or a family heirloom handed down through the generations, if you'd like to share it for the morning, we'd love to see it! You'll take your crèche home with you that day! If you're interested in participating, please sign up during coffee hour on:

November 25, December 2 or December 9!



PW Cookie Sale-Calling All Bakers! – After the service on **December 2nd**. PW will be holding a cookie sale to raise money for scholarships to the Bi-annual Women's Retreat. If you like to bake, please consider donating a batch of your delicious cookies! If you are donating: Label ingredients, especially tree nuts and chocolate. Pack cookies 6 to a sandwich zip lock bag. Drop off in Fellowship Hall on December 2nd before the worship service. **Thank you in advance!**

Come One and All! Holiday Bazaar and Craft Fair

There is still time to get in on the fun! Our 13th annual **Holiday Bazaar and Craft Fair** will take place on **Saturday, November 17th from 9am to 3pm**. We have some time slots left for you to lend a hand on Bazaar day. Please visit our table during coffee hour to sign-up to be a Greeter (stationed at one of the doors to say Hi and direct visitors to the craft vendors upstairs and **Tombola and Silent Auction** downstairs), sell Tombola tickets (1 hour shifts), make chili (for sale at lunch counter) or bake sale goodies. We also have opportunities to **help with vendor set-up on Thursday, November 15, Friday, November 16 and early Saturday morning, November 17**. Be sure to bring family and friends; **Santa! Trains! Face Painting!** All good stuff and of course **handmade crafts for sale**.

Trinity Presbyterian Church's Thirteenth Annual

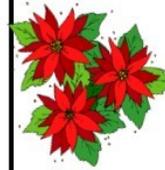
Holiday Bazaar

A Craft Fair and Food Court

Saturday, November 17, 2018

9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

499 Route 70 East, Cherry Hill NJ



Craft Fair

Jewelry & Accessories

Home Accents

Holiday Decorations

Pottery & Woodwork

**Bring a camera and have
your picture taken with
Santa!**

**Model Train Display
Something for everyone!**

Food Court

Lunch

Hot/Cold Beverages

HUGE Bake Sale

Silent Auction

Tombola Theme Baskets

**SJ Health & Wellness Center
Wellness Screenings & Massages**

**The Holiday Bazaar benefits the
Trinity Church Mission Trip Fund**



**For information, contact
Julie Blair
2018trinitybazaar@gmail.com
www.trinpres.org**





*You are cordially invited to spend the
Christmas Season
with all of us at Trinity Presbyterian Church!!*

Sunday, December 2 - 9:30am

*Children & Youth Christmas Music followed by
Advent Festival and PW Cookie Sale*

Tuesday, December 4 - 6:30pm

Trinity Women's

Christmas Dinner & Communion Service

Friday, December 7 - 7:30 pm

*Trinity Community Concert Series featuring the
Atlantic Brass Band*

Sunday, December 9 - 9:30am

*Adult Choir & Chamber Ensemble presents a service of readings & anthems
Christmas Sharing Delivery - our Deacons deliver gifts to needy families*

Sunday, December 16 - 9:30am

*Christmas Worship with hand bell music
Nativity Walk immediately following the service—enjoy a cup of coffee
while viewing dozens of favorite crèches shared by our members*

Sunday, December 23 - 9:30am

Christmas Worship with ukulele & concert bands

Monday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

4:00pm *Family Worship Service & Pageant*

7:00 and 11:00 pm *Candlelight Communion with*

Pre-service music, choir and brass. Childcare offered at 7pm only.

Christmas Eve Social following the 7pm service

Sunday, December 30 - 9:30am *Sunday Worship Service, Childcare*

Sunday, January 6 - 9:30am *Epiphany Sunday*

Communion, Choir & Youth Bells



Sermon by Rabbi Benjamin David given at Trinity on 9.30.2018

Biography

Originally from Cherry Hill, **Benjamin David** is the **Senior Rabbi of Adath Emanu-El** in Mt Laurel, a Reform congregation. He has served there since 2012. He is interested in Talmud, social justice, and Hebrew literature. Rabbi David is also an avid writer and runner. He is the editor of the recently published *Seven Days, Many Voices: Insights into the Biblical Story of Creation*. He is the immediate past president of the Tri County Board of Rabbis. Ben is married to Lisa and they have three children: Noa, Elijah and Samuel.

Sermon

There's a story that a rabbi once stood up to preach. He had a tradition of taking a cough drop in his mouth right before he started and by the time the cough drop dwindled to nothing he knew it was about time to sit down.

Well it so happens that that morning he went on and on (and on). Everyone was perfectly polite at the synagogue but when he got home his wife was incredulous: 'You normally speak for a few minutes,' she said. 'How come today you went on for close to an hour? What happened to the cough drop?'

The rabbi was ashamed as he answered: 'I accidentally grabbed a marble instead.' I can't promise much, but I'll promise not to be too long up here.

We are siblings you and I. We are brothers and sisters in faith. Yes, our liturgy is different. Yes, we have different sacred texts. Our history, our clergy, our holy sites... are not entirely the same. But we are locked eternally in partnership. And thank God.

We have walked similar footsteps through the centuries. We have lived side by side in the Holy Land, in Europe and yes today in South Jersey. In a world that too often fans the flames of division and enmity, and too often pits neighbor against neighbor, here we are, walking together, still.

It's so good to be with you. Dr Faulkner and I are more than colleagues; we are friends. He is a teacher of the highest caliber and truly a gift to the community. It is not lost on me that, in Greg, I have a partner and an ally at a time when we who take religion seriously are urged to be defenders not only of sacred doctrine and age-old ritual, but the very notion of decency itself.

I come to you amid a special time on the Jewish calendar. The Festival of Sukkot arrives two weeks into the Jewish year. Some of us here today are still reeling from the heaviness of Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur, which just days ago helped us usher in the Hebrew year 5779. Those holidays are replete with fasting, deep introspection, and soul-searching worship.

And now Sukkot, which pulls us in another direction altogether, namely outside. Sukkot is referenced once and again as a time to consider the natural world out there. It becomes a time to pay homage to the journey through the wilderness, both geographic and spiritual, as endured by our biblical ancestors.

The central symbol of Sukkot is the sukkah, the small hut we eat in, learn in, even sleep in over this week-long holiday as we fulfill the biblical command, '*leishev ba'sukkah,*' to dwell in the sukkah. And I happen to believe that the sukkah is one of the most compelling symbols in all of Judaism, a frail structure that all at once reminds us of the remarkable fragility of life, and the fragility of our personal story, and yes the sometimes fragile nature of faith itself.

Continued ...

The roof of the sukkah is meant to be partially open, allowing for a view of the night sky, and thus a reminder of the vastness of the natural world, and our relative smallness within it. In an age when we would be inclined to make gods out of our own technological advances or our own scholarship or our own scientific discoveries the sukkah places us necessarily within the big broad context of a sprawling universe that was here long before us and, with any luck, will be here long after we go.

One beautiful Sukkot custom urges us to welcome the other into our hut, our sukkah. The Aramaic word that is used for this is *'ushpizin,'* which means 'guests.' For each of the seven days of Sukkot we are told that we are to symbolically invite one of the seven shepherds of Israel into our booth: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Aaron, Joseph and David.

Because traditions grow and change over time, and every Jewish tradition has been subject to every possible interpretation and re-interpretation, every imaginable argument and re-assessment, our sages have wrestled with who else we might invite, some reclaiming this tradition and seeing it as a chance to welcome in, for instance, our esteemed female leaders, thus bringing figures like Miriam and Ruth into the Sukkot narrative. Others urge us to see *ushpizin* as a chance to welcome distinct values into our sukkah, having Sukkot become a time to deeply consider terms such as compassion, mercy, patience, generosity. Are we bringing these not only into our sukkah but into our heart?

But for the sake of this morning I believe we should go further. How many times after all have we sat like this? Not very many. How many times have you prayed in a synagogue one night and a church on Sunday morning? Not very many.

How many times have we stepped over would-be obstacles in the name of learning really about the 'other' and seeing that so-called other as created in the image of the divine, as we all are.

So let's take just one minute to introduce ourselves to those seated around us now.

But in truth our world needs us to go further still. Sukkot is not special because of the sukkah or because of its history, though those elements matter. Sukkot isn't special because of its description. Sukkot is special because it is meant to change us. We go not only outside into this makeshift, fragile structure, but maybe we step as well outside of who we were, and into who we can be.

And so when we emerge from the week-long festival we are supposed to be more than we were before. I remember when I was in Israel once during the week of Sukkot I would look up and everywhere I went I would see a sukkah: outside of restaurants, up on balconies, in public parks, in front of museums and libraries. Each one was unique and colorful in its own right. Some carried traditions unique to that particular family, who had maybe emigrated to Israel from Yemen or Iraq or Argentina or France. Some were lush and lavish, others far more modest.

Some were clearly built for large ultra Orthodox families who often have ten or more children and some were created by and for a lone senior, maybe a Holocaust survivor living alone in an apartment in Jerusalem. And that's when it dawned on me, the reason that the sukkah resonates is because it is us.

It is absolutely everything we are and hope to be, standing, even if vulnerable, against the backdrop of a fast-moving world all around us, with our own physical make-up and our own history, our parts that are unique to us, where we come from and what matters to us, what we show the world and those stories and lessons that we carry deep within.

I am so honored to be able to share the festival with you and to join you on this Sunday morning of worship and togetherness. My prayer is that we bless and be blessed, that we learn and we teach, and that we have the courage to bring to this planet, its times and tides, the grace and the empathy it so needs of us. Amen.

Let them give thanks to
the Lord for His unfailing
love and His wonderful
deeds for mankind, for He
satisfies the thirsty and
fills the hungry with
good things.

PSALM 107:8-9



Thanksgiving

blessings  Gatherings

GRATEFUL *Family*

Give Thanks

Prayers  Blessed 



*Let us come before Him
with Thanksgiving*

Psalms 95:2

November 2018

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|----------------------------------|--|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 Communion Communion Ed 10:45am Ukulele 12pm | 5 NS Closed Strategy 6pm Session 7pm | 6 NS Closed | 7 NS Closed No Commissioning | 8 NS Closed No Choir | 9 NS Closed | 10 Bob Butterfoss Memorial Service 11a, |
| 11 Mixers & Mission 12pm | 12 | 13 Shiphrah 7pm | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 Holiday Bazaar 9am-3pm |
| 18 | 19 Deborah 1pm Ruth 7pm | 20 Men's Group 10am Rebekah 7:15pm | 21 Miriam 9:30am Priscilla 1pm NS Closed No Commissioning No Choir/ Bells | 22 Office Closed NS Closed No Choir Thanksgiving | 23 Office Closed NS Closed | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |

SUNDAY
9:30 Worship Service
9:30 Church School, Nursery-Gr. 6
10:50 Youth Choir
11 am Adult Ed—Witherspoon
11:30am Youth Bells
7 pm Senior High Fellowship (SHF) -
 Witherspoon
MONDAY
7 pm Boy Scouts—Witherspoon

TUESDAY
10 am-1 pm Care 'n Share Shop
7:30 BASIC— 1st and 3rd Tuesday
WEDNESDAY
6:15 pm Commissioning—Witherspoon
7:00 pm Cub Scouts—Community Room
7:30 pm Adult Choir

THURSDAY
10 am-1 pm Care 'n Share Shop
12 pm Alzheimer's Support Group—
6:30 pm AA, Witherspoon
8:00 pm AA, Witherspoon
Thursday Children's Choirs
4:30-5:00 pm Cherub Choir
5:00-5:40 pm Carol Choir
5:40-6:20 pm TEAM Choir
6:20-6:50 pm TEAM Bells



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

Next Tidings deadline is November 15 for December Issue

This is the *Day*
that the Lord has made;
let us *Rejoice*
and be glad in it.
Psalm 118:24

Sunday Worship
9:30am

Church Office
9 am-4 pm M-TH
(856) 428-2050

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(856) 795-8471

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