



November 23, 2020

The Good News from Trinity PC

Onsite Trinity Worship Services

Trinity is now worshipping on Sundays in the sanctuary.

Session understands that not everyone will be comfortable returning to the building for worship. Therefore, we continue to offer recordings of the worship services.

We also have the capability to provide a video recording of the worship service, that will be live streamed at 10:15 AM or played later at your convenience. (see page 3 for details)



***The Office is closed
Thursday, November 26 and
Monday, November 30 for the
Thanksgiving Holiday.***

**Office Open
9:00-2:00 Monday-Thursday
Prayer Requests can be emailed to:
office@trinitypresbyfairfield.org**



Trinity Presbyterian Church
Rev. Tom Dunlap Pastor

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Corner of Ross and Mack Roads
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Prepare for Worship First Sunday in Advent

Mark 13:24-37

“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cock-crow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

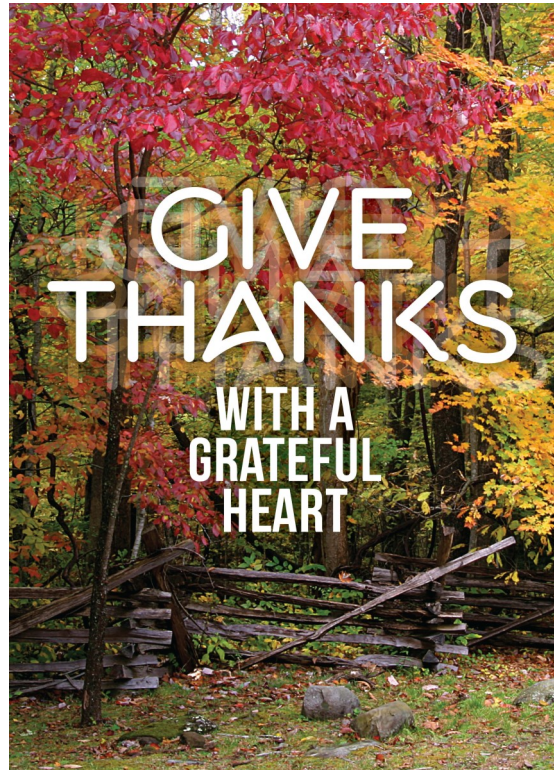
Reflection

The weeks leading to Christmas used to be filled with much activity.... With work, school, and church responsibilities staying “awake,” as Mark 13:24-37 stresses, may be even more difficult this year with the added stress of the pandemic restrictions and the mounting health concerns. Yet, this reading from Mark counsels us to be awake to, to pay attention to, what is most needful for our well-being and the well-being of the world: God’s presence, God’s appearing among us. Here at the beginning of Advent, how will you “keep alert” for God in the midst of so many responsibilities and distractions?

Morning Prayer

Thank you, God, for the gift of life today. I give thanks that your face shines upon me—for you are my salvation. Lead me like a shepherd through this day. Strengthen me for whatever lies ahead. Grant me the spiritual gifts of peace, patience, kindness, and gentleness, for I want to show your love, in word and deed, to others. In Christ’s name. Amen.

—adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1* © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press



Thanks to God

Thanks for prayers that thou hast answered,
Thanks for what thou dost deny.
Thanks for storms that I have weathered,
Thanks for all thou dost supply.
Thanks for pain, and thanks for pleasure.
Thanks for comfort in despair.
Thanks for grace that none can measure,
Thanks for love beyond compare.

Thanks for roses by the wayside,
Thanks for thorns their stems contain.
Thanks for home and thanks for fireside,
Thanks for hope, that sweet refrain.
Thanks for joy and thanks for sorrow,
Thanks for heav’nly peace with thee.
Thanks for hope in the tomorrow,
Thanks through all eternity!

—August Storm, 1891

Sermons Online and on YouTube

For those that do not attend in person, Trinity is offering on-line services live streaming at 10:15 on YouTube. To watch the video live, click on the link below which will direct you to the Trinity YouTube channel, and then click on the video in the displayed list with the LIVE box illuminated. We strongly encourage you to click the "subscribe" link on that page.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCn4Bfx9UtjiaWsrXObnly6g>

On Sunday afternoon, the recorded live service is also available via link through the Trinity website at the link below:

<https://www.trinitypresbyfairfield.org/sermons/>

Trinity has been performing live-streaming of each Sunday's worship service since May. In most week's this effort has been successful, but there have been on occasion "bumps in the road" in which the expected streaming of our worship services has been interrupted. We realize that a sizable number in our congregation now rely on the online services we provide each week, and we wanted to give you some information.

The church suffers from intermittent Internet outages on occasion. When this happens, the stream may go offline completely, and YouTube will automatically attempt to fill the gap by moving to the next streaming church service it finds - Baptist anyone!? While we strive to keep the live streaming active during worship, in those instances the video will buffer or lost the connection altogether. In almost all cases, the outages are brief (lasting seconds), and the live streaming can be restarted within 1 minute. In those cases of a complete loss, you may need to restart the video from Trinity's YouTube channel. If outages do last longer, rest assured that worship services are all recorded directly from the camera as a backup, and the recorded version will be available on the Trinity Website later on Sunday afternoons. This process is not as quick as live-streaming and usually takes YouTube a few hours to complete. While this is not ideal, the worship services will always eventually be available even if the Internet service at Trinity is down entirely. In those cases we apologize for the inconvenience and rest assured Trinity is always working to improve this process. —Trinity Communications

Advent Devotionals

The Worship Committee is offering an Advent devotional booklet, "Those Who Dream" by *Sanctified Art* team, the booklet will be emailed this week. **If you would prefer a printed copy of the booklet rather than the digital file, please call the office at 860-4114 or email: office@trinitypresbyfairfield.org.**

Because of the license limitations to the materials, if you like the devotional and want to forward the digital file to a relative or friend, please let the office know so that we manage the correct count of the number of booklets we send out.

Bell Choir Practices

Practice for the Bell Choir is on Tuesday nights at 7:00 PM. The Bell Choir is preparing for the upcoming Advent season. There is still time for those who may be interested in joining. This will be a great way to commune safely while the choir is on hiatus. Even if you have no experience reading music, playing in ensemble or "can't carry a tune", feel free to check this out! Please contact Davis McKinney at: trumpianist@yahoo.com if you are interested.

Sandwich Making

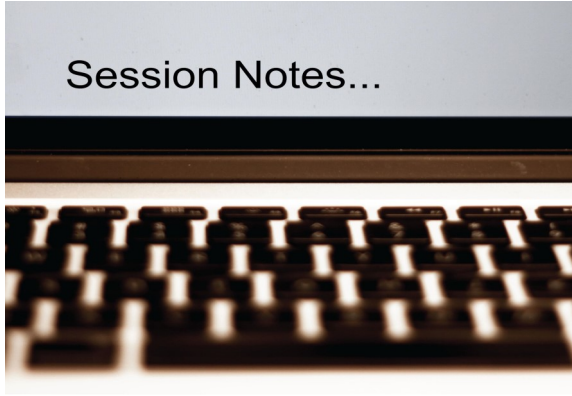
We will be making sandwiches for *Our Daily Bread Pantry* on Thursday, December 3. For those making the sandwiches at Trinity, we will begin at 9:30 AM. For those dropping off sandwiches, please deliver them at Trinity **by 11:00 AM**. Your homemade sandwiches of: baloney and cheese or peanut butter and jelly should be individually wrap or put the sandwiches in individual baggies and mark or add a tag that notes the kind of sandwich inside. Please **do not add any condiments**. We appreciate your help with this Mission Outreach Project.

Women's Christmas Dinner—Cancelled

The Women's Christmas Dinner that was scheduled on December 9, has been cancelled due to the virus concerns and the need for limited gatherings.

Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.

—Henry Ford



Session Notes...

A Look At Session Actions

The **Worship Committee** has selected “Those Who Dream” as the theme for Advent. There are devotional booklets that will be distributed to the congregation digitally and printed during the week of November 22. The liturgy and sermons will reflect this theme. A few of our remote participants will be asked to record the liturgy for lighting of the Advent wreath.

Sunday, November 22 will be “Hanging of the Greens”. Décor will be limited due to COVID-19.

Mission Committee decided to continue sandwich making through April 2021. During Advent Trinity will sponsor Christmas for two families through MRDD. The Committee also approved \$100.00 donations to Matthew 25, Our Daily Bread, Fairfield Food Pantry, Non-Food Pantry, Compass Elementary 1st Grade.

Discipleship had decided on using curriculum with the Advent theme for the adult Sunday school class. Stewardship of Property has repaired the windows. The finishes (paint, staining) will be completed soon. Plans include securing a six month supply of cleaning supplies, a replacement camera for the front entrance, and the light on the sign repaired.

City of Fairfield has been *under billing* Trinity. They will not back bill us but going forward our bill is assessed on 25,000 units of water and not 2500. We may have still had water theft in July-August, but we were *substantially under billed* for water. Most recent bill is \$187.00 compared to \$64. Link to Fairfield water rate info: <https://www.fairfield-city.org/241/Utility-Rates>

Stewardship of Property has repaired the windows that were not closing properly. The finishes (paint, staining) will be completed soon. New plans include securing a six month supply of cleaning supplies, replacing a camera for the front entrance, and repairing the light on the sign.

Website statistics for the month of October are shown below.

We had 44 unique visitors to the website for the month. The website continues to be updated weekly with newsletters, and sermon information. Sermons for Sunday are published around midnight on Sunday morning.

Live-streaming has been continuing for each Sunday service. The recorded files have been available on the website typically on Sunday afternoons. We have noted that during the last 2 Sundays, there were intermittent internet dropouts. Powering off and restarting the routers seemed to correct the problem, but. We are monitoring the issue. As a backup, we have been recording full services on the camera to upload to YouTube if necessary if dropouts during streaming occurs. Those will be available on Sunday afternoons.

Budget

Through the first ten months of the year, income in the general fund is 88% of the budgeted amount, with offering income equaling 87% of what is budgeted and other income equaling 95% of the budgeted amount. In part, the other income includes recognition of income previously deferred for missions, deacons and the women’s group. Building Sharing support will fall short of the budgeted amount because of the shutdown encountered. Currently the Building Sharing amount received is 61% of the amount budgeted.

The overall cash position is adequate to meet future needs. Current cash over and above current liabilities equals \$35K.

Pledge Campaign

Currently, we have received back 46% of pledge cards sent out on October 25th, for a total of 23 responses. These pledges total \$64,592 or 49% of the budget for 2021. Should this remain the case, we will have to take a hard look at the budget for next year and make some adjustments.

Adopt A Family



Trinity Adopt-a-Family

This year Trinity will be adopting two families for Christmas. The two families total ten people which means twenty gifts to purchase.

If you are staying home and would like to participate in this Christmas Outreach, you can contact Connie Williams at: conniewilliams2014@gmail.com or call her at 513-370-7903, and she can let you know what gifts are available. Another way you can participate is to send a check to Trinity, made out to Trinity Presbyterian Church and in the notation line put *Adopt a Family*.

For those attending church at Trinity on Sunday, slips of paper with gift suggestions will be on the bulletin board for you to make your selection.

If you are purchasing gifts, they are to be wrapped and labeled with the recipient's first name and household number. The gifts are due back in church by December 13.



THE GOOD NEWS

As of November 22

Keep in your Prayers

Robert and his mother, Linda Mae, K. Evert req.	Healing/dealing with addiction and depression
Judy Miller, Donna Schuler's sister	Healing/on ventilator in COVID ICU
Ellen Lewis, Diane Rayer's sister	Healing/hospitalized with COVID
Kathy Kessler	Thanksgiving/birth of granddaughter, Katie Kessler
Sandra Edmunds, Nadine Jones' Neighbor	God's Peace and Comfort/latter stages of lung cancer
Pam Haring	Healing/strength and courage/new treatment plan
Bob Miller, D. Schuler's brother	Healing/foot infection/uncontrolled heart rate
Nancy Miracle, D. Schuler's sister	God's Comfort/latter stages of ASL
Family & Friends of Dan Birch, Haring request	Bereavement/loss of Dan
Rev. Trevor Phillips, Haring request	Bereavement/loss of his brother
Joe Schrufer, Debbie Johnson's father	Healing/patience/fractured femur
Bill Tope	Continued healing
Diane Rayer	Healing/back problems
George Liles	Continued healing/home recovering
Dee Burkhardt	Continued healing/Chesterwood Village
Gerald Reese, M. Reese's father	Continued healing/swallowing problems
Margie, Fran Thomas' sister	God's peace and comfort
All peoples in the Middle East	Peace and reconciliation
All Elected Government leaders	Wisdom/support/enlightenment
Support for all our military	Strength/discernment/God's protection
For all missionaries (Especially for S. and B.)	Protection/blessings/fruitful mission work

Names that have been on the Prayer List for more than 4 weeks are marked with an asterisk ().
If you would like them to remain on the list, please contact the office by Tuesday.*

Financial Information

Donations Received as of 11/22	\$2,477
Per Capita 2020 Donations	\$858
Property Fund Giving 2020	\$4,400
Property Fund Goal 2020	\$5,000

Per Capita for 2020 is \$33

Notice from the Treasurer:

We would like to thank all of you who continue to mail in your pledges and donations.

However, we have noticed that not all pledges are coming in as planned. This money is extremely important as we try to cover our budget for this year. So thank you for continuing your support!

Worship Schedule

Nov. 29	Rev. Tom Dunlap
Dec. 6	Rev. Tom Dunlap
Dec. 13	Rev. Tom Dunlap
Dec. 20	Rev. Tom Dunlap
Dec. 24	Rev. Tom Dunlap

The Presbytery of Cincinnati publishes a weekly newsletter called "The Cincinnati Sampler." To subscribe to The Sampler go to: <https://www.presbteryofcincinnati.org> and click on "Sign Up For The Sampler" at the bottom right corner of the page.



Exercising Our Gratitude Muscles

Expressing gratitude isn't just a good thing to do; it also appears to be good for us! Indiana University researchers found that participants who performed gratitude-focused writing exercises felt uplifted, and were more likely to express gratefulness through generosity, even weeks later.

Furthermore, brain scans revealed increased gratitude-related activity even months down the road (*New York Magazine*).


Though the study was small, we seem to have a “gratitude muscle” that can be strengthened through exercise. If so, there may be more than we thought to the popularity of gratitude journals and Mom’s insistence that we write thank-you notes. Not to mention the biblical call to “give thanks to the LORD, for he is good” (1 Chronicles 16:34, for example).

Might God have hardwired us for gratitude – not only at Thanksgiving but year round – because it’s good for *us* as well as for those we thank? To that, we respond, “Thanks be to God!”

??? **Bible Quiz** ???

According to the fourth Gospel, “There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the _____.”


- A. love
- B. life
- C. light
- D. Lord



Answer: C (See John 1:6-7, NRSV.)

I will give to the Lord
the thanks
due to his righteousness,
and I will sing praise
to the name of the Lord,
the Most High.

Psalm 7:17



Visit our web page:

www.trinitypresbyfairfield.org

Check out our Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/trinitypcfairfield>

Worship with us:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCn4Bfx9UtjiaWsrXObnly6g>

<https://www.trinitypresbyfairfield.org/sermons/>



Glad gatherings

The first Christians met together over a meal. Today church families still gather to break bread and thank God.

Follow the instructions below. Then write the remaining words in order from left to right and top to bottom to complete the verses.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	They	found	broke	bread	acts	in
2	houses	their	homes	beautiful	and	round
3	ate	world	beginning	together	follow	thought
4	with	numbers	glad	happiness	lesson	and
5	thanks	sincere	disciples	gathering	hearts	tradition
6	celebrate	good	praising	Christian	God	river

- Cross out all words in column E with double letters.
- Cross out all words that are books of the Bible.
- Cross out all words in column B that end in d.
- Cross out all words in column A that have more than 4 letters.
- Cross out all words in row 5 with 3 syllables.
- Cross out all words in the table with 9 letters.
- Cross out all words in column F with 2 or more vowels.

_____ . ACTS 2:46-47, NIV

Puzzle!

Write the words below in alphabetical order inside the squares. Then read down the second column to discover the sentence that begins and ends Psalms 146, 147, 148, 149 and 150.

- FEAST
- KHAKI
- MOUTH
- ESSAY
- LLAMA
- ORBIT
- CARRY
- UDDER
- BRUSH
- ITEMS
- APPLE
- LEARN
- CIDER

A			

Answer:

-----!

Answer: They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God. Acts 2:46-47, NIV

Answer: Praise the LORD!

Onsite Worship Protocols

Trinity has begun Onsite Worship. Below are the preparations and changes to the worship service that have been made:

Preparations for the Trinity building include:

- Thoroughly cleaning on a regular basis, with frequently touched surfaces being sanitized.
- Church front entry doors, as well as the middle and side entry doors to the sanctuary, are propped open and will remain open for the entire worship service. (minimizes contact with the door handles and increases ventilation within the church building.
- Bottles of liquid hand sanitizer will be available for use in the narthex, and you are encouraged as well to bring your own personal hand sanitizer. The water fountains outside the restrooms will be unplugged and covered on Sunday morning. Please bring your own personal water containers or bottles. No food or beverages will be offered. The sacristy room will be closed.
- When utilizing the restroom on Sunday morning, note whether another person is already using the room, and wait outside until that person exits the restroom before entering. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water prior to exiting the restroom.
- While inside the church building, **we are strongly encouraging that each person wear a face covering or mask.** A limited number of surgical masks will be available if you forget your own personal face covering.
- If on Sunday morning you are experiencing a fever (in excess of 100.4° F), coughing, shortness of breath or other symptoms potentially indicating COVID-19 infection, please refrain from attending worship on that morning and seek medical assistance.

The worship service itself will, not surprisingly, be a little different than what we are accustomed to. Some of the worship service modifications will be:

- We anticipate that attendance at the initial services will be quite modest, so the ushers should easily be able to assist individuals and family groups to find seating in the pews with appropriate social distancing.
- No printed bulletins will be distributed by the ushers. Everyone will receive an electronic version of each week's bulletin by email, and you are encouraged to print out the bulletin at home and bring it with you on Sunday morning. A limited number of printed bulletins will be available in the narthex. The bulletin will include the hymn lyrics.
- Hymnbooks, Bibles, pencils and attendance pads will be removed. Prayer request forms will be displayed on a table in the narthex, that can be filled out prior to the service, which can then be deposited in offering baskets located at the sanctuary entry doors.
- There will be no choir performances, and congregational singing of the hymns will be discouraged. Singing of the hymns in our minds, or possibly light humming, will be our means of expressing our musical worship.
- There will be no children's sermon or children's Sunday school classes, so children will remain with their families during worship. **No nursery attendants will be provided**, so use of the nursery room will be limited to parents and their children, if necessary.
- There will be no collection of offering during the service. Offerings will be deposited in the offering baskets located at the sanctuary entry doors when departing the sanctuary at the conclusion of the service.
- On Communion Sundays (first Sunday of the month) servers will not be distributing the communion elements. Trinity has purchased a supply of prepackaged communion "sets", each with a wafer and sealed juice cup, which will be placed on a table at the front of the sanctuary, to be picked up by individual worshippers at the appointed time during the communion service.
- Following Rev. Dunlap's benediction, he, or the preacher of the day, will immediately proceed outside the church building, to greet and chat with the worshippers in the safer, fresher outdoor environ (no rain please!). All of the attendees will be encouraged to proceed to the outside as quickly as possible. It's outside, in the fresh air, that we can really practice being the Trinity community of faith - socially distanced hugs, catching up on all our quarantine stories, etc.!