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# TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN

## July Tidings

#### 1 Corinthians 13:4

"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant."

#### Philippians 4:6

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

#### **Romans 12:12**

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."

#### Galatians 6:9

"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."

#### **Psalm 40:1**

"I waited patiently for the Lord; who inclined to me and heard my cry."

#### Romans 8:25

"But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."

"Put on then, as God's chosen ones,

#### Colossians 3:12-13

holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive."

#### Matthew 24:42

"Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming."

Hang on, dear friends. Better times are surely coming!

Grace,
and Peace,
and Patience,

MARK

#### Waiting Patiently?

I've never been an especially patient person. I try, but it doesn't come naturally. I want to be better at waiting, mostly because I genuinely view it as a biblical mandate. So, for my own benefit, and hopefully for yours as well, let me just share a few of the scores of references to "waiting patiently" that are such an important part of the various collected writings in the Bible: (Because... God knows that we are in a season of waiting!)



#### note from the associate pastor...

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) takes place every two years, as approximately a thousand minister and elder commissioners, advisory delegates, church officials, and guests gather for a week of meetings to make decisions concerning the direction and life of the denomination. It was my privilege to be elected, with three others, as a commissioner from the Presbytery of Western North Carolina to this year's Assembly, the 224th, which was to be held in Baltimore.

The COVID-19 pandemic, however, forced the church to quickly craft a much-abbreviated online Assembly, which has just concluded. Faced with the daunting dual tasks of crafting the technological infrastructure to hold such a meeting and making decisions on what constituted "essential" business versus what could and should be postponed until the 225th Assembly, in 2022, the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly did an admirable job.

As of this writing, I'm still compiling my notes on the Assembly, and I look forward to sharing a full report on the meeting soon. What I can share with you now, with gratitude and enthusiasm, is the news of the election of Co-Moderators of the 224th General Assembly, Ruling Elder Elona Street-Stewart and the Rev. Gregory Bentley. Ms. Street-Stewart, executive of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies and a member of the Delaware Nanticoke tribe, is the first Indigenous person elected to serve as a PCUSA General Assembly Moderator. Mr. Bentley is pastor of the Fellowship Presbyterian Church of Huntsville, Alabama. The pair were elected overwhelmingly on the first ballot, and I believe the Assembly made the right choice. We

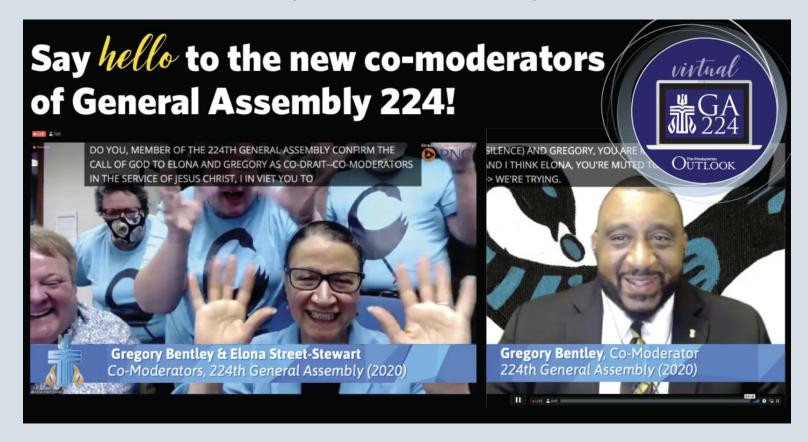


give thanks to God for the new leadership of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Peace,

#### DWIGHT

Photos: (1) Newly elected Co-Moderators of the 224th General Assembly, Ruling Elder Elona Street-Stewart and the Rev. Gregory Bentley. (2) The tools of a commissioner to the 224th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): one screen opened to a Zoom meeting of close to 800 participants, another screen opened to PC-Biz, a website hosting the reports and voting machinery of the meeting.



## session notes:

The Session held its regular meeting by Zoom on June 15, 2020. Kathryn Forsythe read an excerpt from and devotion on the Confession of Belhar, and then led us in an opening prayer. An additional meeting was also held on June 1 to make decisions regarding the Covid-19 pandemic.

We noted with sorrow the passing of Audrey White on May 22 and the passing of Eleanor Beardsley on June 2.

At the June 1 meeting, Rev. Mark Stanley presented the conclusions of the re-opening task force. He noted that the committee would be looking at both the CDC and the state and local reports to determine when they recommend Session reopen public worship and the church building.

Mark also presented a motion at the recommendation of the re-opening task force, which was approved by Session, to allow holding Memorial Services with up to 10 invited persons indoors, or with up to 20 invited persons outdoors. Masks, hand sanitizer, and appropriate physical distances would be required, and singing of hymns would not be allowed. A special effort to clean after the family has left will be made.

Ed Spencer presented a request for the use of the portico by Thrive for a virtual tea fundraiser, where Thrive representatives could distribute Thrive mugs, which Session approved.

Session also approved the Internal Review Report, which Diane Bowers presented.

At the June 15 meeting, Rev. Dwight Christenbury noted that he is a commissioner to this year's General Assembly, which will be held online. He noted that GA's docket is quite different than usual, with most committees and non-essential business deferred.

Ed Spencer presented a report from the re-opening task force. He noted they were examining state and local recommendations closely. The task force is reviewing numerous factors, which Ed provided details on. He particularly noted that developing a plan with the Yard Sale coordinators and the Preschool Board. Both will keep the task force informed.

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He then presented a motion, brought by the task force, that Trinity remain closed for the foreseeable future, following local and state health guidelines, which Session approved



Thrive Let Love Brew: Virtual Tea Edition - Kristen, Tracey and Ed prepare to distribute mugs, cookies and tea bags in preparation for the Thursday evening virtual tea. Nearly 80 persons drove under the Trinity Presbyterian Church portico to receive their tea fixings and to demonstrate support for Thrive, one of Trinity's outreach organizations which serves individuals experiencing mental health issues.

Ed noted that he and Bob Forsythe have been working extensively with AT&T on improving the internet speed available. However, the determination was that, currently, we are getting the maximum internet speed available at our location. Some settings were adjusted, which will hopefully see some improvement.

He also noted that a new video camera has been purchased. A plan is being developed to evaluate and utilize the new video camera to enhance pre-recorded and live streaming of weekly worship services.

Diane Bowers noted, for Finance and Stewardship, that the church has made our IAM match, with several people from the community also contributing.

Pamela Campbell, who will be moving to Vancouver, Washington, said a kind farewell.

Dwight closed the meeting with prayer.

Peace be with you,

- KATHRYN FORSYTHE

Clerk of Session

#### Re-Opening Task Group: An Overview of Planning Opportunities

Recognizing that the Trinity family is living in a strange, uncertain and most difficult time, we all know that we are continuing to practice our faith in many and varied ways. A small re-opening planning group was formed to discuss and propose recommendations to Session for the incremental opening of the church building. To this end, the group is reviewing the formulation of a three step plan leading from minimal to full opening. The Worship Ministry and the Technology Committee have also been invited to participate in these timely deliberations

Recommendations for Session consideration may include a phased opening the building in the foreseeable future, physical distancing, wearing protective masks, practicing regular hand hygiene, limited touching of hymnals and programs, no singing, new ways to receive offerings, no food or beverage, multiple weekly services and the continuation of recorded video services each Sunday. Some Trinity practices may even change, out of necessity. As community health conditions continue to undergo change, other opening steps may be considered.

In all cases, please be assured that the Task Group and our Session members are deliberately and decisively attempting to provide maximum health safety to each and every member. As the Session receives and acts on individual recommendations, we will utilize all of Trinity's printed and digital information formats to keep each of you informed. We welcome and need your prayers, support and input in these decisions.



# 2 Thessalonians until the rebellion occurs and the man described of the Thessalonians in lawlessnesse is revealed, the man described of the Lord Jesus Christians and peace to you from God the the Lord Jesus Christians and peace to you from God the the Lord Jesus Christians and Prayer We ought any to thank God for you, bers, and reason to destruction. He will oppose and to destruction. He will oppose and to destruction the will have been destroyed and the see that God's temple, proclaiming anself with you I used to tell you with you I used to tell you holding him because your faith owning more and the love basing. Therefore, each other is case, so that he may be back, so that he will have be back, so that he may be back, so that he may be back, so that he will have back and the may be back and the will have back and

#### **New Bible Study: 2 Thessalonians**

We continue our Zoom Bible study series with a look at the brief and mysterious 2 Thessalonians. Why "mysterious"? Because the letter is so similar to 1 Thessalonians in some places and so different in others—not to mention a couple of strange hints of forgery—that it's impossible to know for sure whether it was written by the apostle Paul himself or by a later follower of Paul's. We hope you can join us!

**What:** Study of 2 Thessalonians

**When:** Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m, July 7, 14, and 21, or

Thursdays, 7:00–7:45 p.m., July 9, 16, and 23

**How:** Online, via Zoom (find the event on the Calendar

page of the Trinity website)

**Questions:** Whether about using Zoom or the study itself, contact

**Dwight Christenbury** 

(dc.trinity@mac.com; 828 545-2590)

# presbyterian women trinity



Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6

This summer is very strange, bordering on the surreal. I have done all the things I know to do to keep Jim and me safe. I wear my mask faithfully, even as my glasses fog and I try to maintain social distance in the grocery store. I wear gloves because it seems like a good idea, and they remind me not to touch my face. I wipe door-knobs and light switches with disinfectant even when no one besides us has been in the house. And I readily admit to feeling some mixture of boredom, impatience, and terror.

I am working on taking direction and comfort from Paul's words, believing that God hears my prayers and that I do not need to be afraid. I sit quietly, awaiting God, and my heart fills with calm. And I go on.

**Presbyterian Women** are adapting to the "new normal." We initiated new officers during the May 24 worship service, who include Mary Louise Forsythe (Search Moderator), Leslie Nissen (Co-moderator Deborah Circle), Billie Hicklin (Co-moderator Rebekah Circle), and Katie Hankla (Treasurer).

Our circles have elected to continue meeting using Zoom during the summer months. Summer circle programs vary. Some are studying specific lesson materials, while others are meeting to "check in" and to provide community and prayer.

Study material for the 2020-21 year is "Into the Light, Finding Hope through Prayers of Lament," by Lynn Miller, for Rebekah, Naomi and Esther Circles and "Live Deeply, A Study of the Parables of Jesus," by Lenya Heitzig and Penny Rose for Deborah Circle.

All circles are eager for new members, and we encourage any interested women to contact one of the moderators for specific meeting details. If you are considering joining us in the fall, let us know, and we will assure you have study materials.

#### Rebekah Circle Co-moderators:

- Cheryl Spencer (803) 447-8776
- Billie Hicklin (828) 773-2692

#### Naomi Circle Co-moderators:

- Sarah Thibodeau (828) 230-2524
- Nancy Kisner (828) 606-6360

#### **Esther Circle Co-moderator:**

• Diane Bowers (828) 674-8574

#### **Deborah Circle Co-moderators:**

- Nancy Sheffield (973) 519-9060
- Leslie Nissen (912) 398-1018)

**Note about Zoom**: Zoom provides audio and video when used by a smartphone or PC. It also has a dial up capability that allows an attendee to hear and participate from any phone. So, don't let not having a computer or smartphone stop you from joining a circle, or any Zoom meeting. Zoom has you covered.

Like everything else, the Presbyterian Women 2020-21 schedule is unclear. We hope to have our fall tea in some form or fashion. We want to continue our focus on human trafficking with additional congregation and community education opportunities, and we hope to organize a church-wide trip to the Black Mountain Home for Children. We will provide additional information as our plans develop. In the meantime, try out a circle!



#### Need help during the COVID-19 crisis? Trinity is here support you. Please reach out!

- Mark Stanley: (828) 553-6425, jmstanley1@msn.com
- Dwight Christenbury: (828) 545-2590, dc.trinity@mac.com
- Sally Beghtol: (828) 280-2045, rsbeghtol@bellsouth.net
- Katie Cilluffo: (828) 699-1218, trinitypresbyterianpcusa@gmail.com
- Gene Carlson: (561) 706-0711, genelcarlson@aol.com
- Stephen Klein: (828) 696-9921, klein-s@att.net

#### Global Missions

#### "Letters from Fuente de Vida"

Dear Trinity Church,

Sisters and Brothers we are very grateful to all of you for the offering you sent to our church. Fuente de Vida. The session is very grateful for and joins in thanking the whole church [Trinity] because it was of great help and blessing in the midst of this pandemic.

Brother Antonio is very grateful with the help you sent as the money he received will help to buy the medicines to control his diabetes. Antonio gives much thanks because he does not have money to pay for them. God will reward you all greatly. These are words of Antonio for you.

Sincerely, Adami Ramírez and Fuente de Vida Iglesia

### weekly prayer people

#### JULY 5

- Judy Woelke
- John & Anne Wright
- Marty & Tillie Zigovsky
- Jock & Jan Aplin

#### **JULY 12**

- Ginny Arkens
- Bob & Janet Baker
- Carol Ball
- Kim Ball
- Bryan Byrd

#### **JULY 19**

- Eleanor Beardsley
- Bill & Ann Campbell
- Julie Carter & Kathy Madigan
- Jane Cartledge

#### JULY 26

- Cassie Miller & Julie Butcher
- Sally Beghtol
- Fritz & Chris Becker
- Steve & Pamela Cambell

#### "Letter from Carlos Moldonado"

Dear sister Carole Ball,

Greetings to you and Trinity, wishing that you are all doing well. It's a pleasure to be able to communicate through this means. You are always present in my intercession prayers, asking God to spare you and each of the Trinity members from all the things that are happening.

We have heard and seen in the news that the US has been deeply affected and battered by the COVID-19, and that several states have been hit by the virus. With a brief message responding to the previous email, I communicated with Sister Ruth Gabriel to tell them that you had written on behalf of Trinity Church. Despite the situation we are going through here, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, she was very happy that you and our brothers and sisters have thought about Fuente de Vida. I'm glad that you wrote and that you are all doing well. The news here, in reference to the pandemic, is that nobody contracted the virus, in Monterrey as well as in neighboring places.

The Guatemalan National Government tried to manage using the toughest restrictions to avoid contagion, such as the use of facial masks and social distancing; in the past few weeks, however, positive cases have increased, and are now between 180 and 250 positive cases daily. But they are all fine. However, over the past week Guatemala had a lot of rain, affected by the [tropical] storms; it's been raining constantly. Many areas of Guatemala we affected by floods, mud slides, and river overflows.

About me, I'm doing very well, thanks God. I was on furlough for 20 days, although we started working again on April 3rd. I was not laid off or suspended, like so many have been as a result of the virus and the situation in the country. I wish from the bottom of my hearts that you are all well, take care, of yourself and be safe.

Also, we've been watching the news and on the internet the protests in the whole country in reference to racism, and all the looting suffered by shops. I heard that a church and even historical places were set on fire. Greetings to you, sister Carole [personally], and all of you [in Trinity]. May God bless you and keep you safe.

In trust, let's get closer to our Lord Jesus Christ, interceding for each other, in communion in the same faith. May the peace of the good God be always with your whole church, and in all what is going on, and wishing that all can return to normal as soon as possible.

I'm saying good-bye to each one of you with a big hug.

Cordially, Carlos.

#### revised common lectionary july 2020

Proper 9 (14) Fifth Sunday after Pentecost July 5, 2020	Genesis 24:34-38, 42- 49, 58-67  Psalm 45:10-17  or  Song of Solomon 2:8-13	Zechariah 9:9-12  Psalm 145:8-14	Romans 7:15-25a	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
Proper 10 (15) Sixth Sunday after Pentecost July 12, 2020	Genesis 25:19-34  Psalm 119:105-112	Isaiah 55:10-13 Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13	Romans 8:1-11	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
Proper 11 (16) Seventh Sunday after Pentecost July 19, 2020	Genesis 28:10-19a Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24	Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19 or Isaiah 44:6-8 Psalm 86:11-17	Romans 8:12-25	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
Proper 12 (17) Eighth Sunday after Pentecost July 26, 2020	Genesis 29:15-28  Psalm 105:1-11, 45b  or  Psalm 128	1 Kings 3:5-12 Psalm 119:129-136	Romans 8:26-39	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52



## BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Nancy Twitchen
- 2 Fitz Sthreshley
- 3 Steve Campbell
- 4 Don Robinson Nugent Sharp
- Sue EllsasserAlice GanttSusan Mangrum
- 8 Shirley Bakstad
- 11 Jim Smelker

- 13 Dan Donovan Leslie Nissen Ken Sugawara
- 15 Diane Bowers
  Bill Campbell
- 16 Ron Hoverson
- 17 Chuck Noegal Emma Persigehl Don Widmayer
- 18 Barbara Johnson Frank Maston
- 19 Sue Robinson Cheryl Spencer

- 20 Priscilla Karvonen
- 21 Kaydee Haskins
- 22 Beth Miller
- 27 Pat Dienst
- 28 Sondra Luebke
- 29 Jan Bridges
- 31 Mel Bringle
  Judy Woelke

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 12:30 Musicians' Rehearsal 1:00 Film Sunday Worship 2:00 Technology Meeting 7:00 Zoom Wednesday Night Live	2 11:00 Zoom - Book Study 1:30 AA Ladies	3	4 - INDEPENDENCE DAY
5 - COMMUNION 10:00 Yard Sale Drop Off 10:00 Zoom - Issues & Concerns Class 11:00 Zoom Worship	6 8:30 Finance Team 2:00 Quilters	7 9:00 Zoom Staff Meeting 10:00 Zoom Coffee/Issues 11:30 Zoom Bible Study - 2 Thessalonians	8 10:00 Zoom Esther Circle 12:30 Musicians' Rehearsal 1:00 Film Sunday Worship 7:00 Zoom Wednesday Night Live	9 11:00 Zoom - Book Study 1:00 COVID-19 Planning 1:30 AA Ladies 4:00 Finance Ministry 7:00 Zoom Bible Study - 2 Thessalonians	10	11
12 10:00 Zoom - Issues & Concerns Class 11:00 Zoom Worship	13 8:30 Finance Team 4:00 Zoom - Worship Ministry meeting 6:00 Zoom Session Meeting	14 9:00 Zoom Staff Meeting 10:00 Zoom Coffee/Issues 11:30 Zoom Bible Study - 2 Thessalonians	15 12:30 Musicians' Rehearsal 1:00 Film Sunday Worship 7:00 Zoom Wednesday Night Live	16 11:00 Zoom - Book Study 1:30 AA Ladies 7:00 Zoom Bible Study - 2 Thessalonians	17	18
19 10:00 Zoom - Issues & Concerns Class 11:00 Zoom Worship	20 - TIDINGS DEADLINE 8:30 Finance Team	21 9:00 Zoom Staff Meeting 10:00 Zoom Coffee/Issues 11:30 Zoom Bible Study - 2 Thessalonians	22 12:30 Musicians' Rehearsal 1:00 Film Sunday Worship 7:00 Zoom Wednesday Night Live	23 11:00 Zoom - Book Study 1:30 AA Ladies 7:00 Zoom Bible Study - 2 Thessalonians	24	25
26 10:00 Zoom - Issues & Concerns Class 11:00 Zoom Worship	27 8:30 Finance Team 6:00 Zoom Session Meeting	28 9:00 Zoom Staff Meeting 10:00 Zoom Coffee/Issues 6:00 Zoom Deborah Circle	29 12:30 Musicians' Rehearsal 1:00 Film Sunday Worship 7:00 Zoom Wednesday Night Live	30 1:30 AA Ladies	July 2	2020



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Rev. Dr. Mark Stanley • Senior Pastor Rev. Dwight Christenbury • Associate Pastor Sally Beghtol CLP • Minister of Visitation Beth Erber • Preschool Director Stephen Klein • Organist/Adult Choir Director

Katie Cilluffo • Administrative Assistant/Graphic Designer

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Trinity Presbyterian Church welcomes **you** without regard to race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, education, economic circumstance, your place of origin or any other issue that divides God's Family.

We are Christ's people and this is Christ's place with its doors wide open.

Welcome!

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"it's july

and I have hope in who I am becoming"

