



TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PATHWAYS Newsletter

JULY 2023

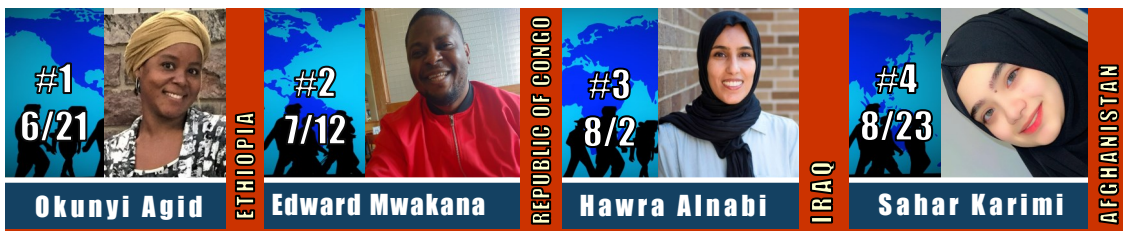
Four Speaker Summer Series has Begun!

Trinity has kicked off our "New Neighbor" summer series with our first speaker on June 21st. Join us for speaker #2, Edward Mwakana. He will share his homeland experiences, transition process, and life after settling in the Twin Cities. The events are

free to the community and shared with a postcard mailing. These events will allow our speakers to share their story, address questions, and share dessert together.

You can read more about the speaker series on pages 4-5 of Pathways.

Remaining Wednesdays: 7/12, 8/2 & 8/23, 7:00-8:30pm, Fellowship Hall.



SUNDAY SERVICES 10AM

July 2
Communion Sunday
FSSF Meets at 11AM

July 9
Sunday Worship

July 16
Praise on the Patio
In Person Worship Only
Reminder: Bring a chair/blanket
Flooring Fundraiser Ends

July 23
David Reiter Preaching

July 30
Sunday Worship 10AM
&
Stonecrest Worship 1PM

Stonecrest
Presbyterian Homes & Services



You're Invited! Sunday, 8/20 Jane Williams & Ross Anderson invite you to witness their short marriage vows immediately following the Sunday worship service on the patio August 20. Please join them in celebrating with cake and lemonade in the fellowship hall the worship service. PLEASE no cards or gifts!

Flooring Fundraiser UPDATE: 3 Weeks Remain! 6/1-7/16



UPDATE: Trinity's garden is blooming! To date, the flooring sprinter fundraiser has raised \$4,300.00. With matching, that is \$8,600! We are almost halfway to the goal which will cover the full cost of new flooring. If you are able to help with the flooring restoration project, consider a contribution before the campaign ends on Sunday, July 16th. Trinity thanks all of you for the gifts received so far.

Goal: The flooring is original to the building construction in 1987 and is very worn. The project total is \$19,000. One of our members has offered to match gifts up to \$6,500. The Session is asking each member to consider making a donation equal to one extra month of donation for this year (i.e. a 13th month for 2023). Members are asked to do this between now and Sunday, July 16th. Please mark your payment as "Sanctuary flooring" if you can make that contribution now, or if you need to do it later after July 16th, please notify the church office of your intent to contribute before the end of the year.

How to give: When you give a gift, a flower blossom and green leaf are added to the garden banners on your behalf. Your name/family name will be on the leaf (unless you request to remain anonymous). Monetary amounts are private. Look for the four flower banners displayed in the church's main entrance and watch as our garden grows! All gifts are being matched/doubled (thanks to an anonymous donor). Please remember to put **Flowers for Flooring** on donations.





Comedian Rev. Bill Chadwick Returns, Saturday, 7/8 @ 6PM

Join Trinity, Saturday, 7/8 @ 6pm in the Fellowship Hall for a family-friendly come-

dy routine with fellowship time following. The event will be open to the public. Trinity's Community Outreach & Communications Committee is sponsoring the event with the Deacon Board assisting.

Bill Chadwick is a husband, father, pastor, comedian, ventriloquist, author and long-time friend of Trinity Presbyterian. He is the author of *Still Laughing, Still*

Learning, (Still Looking for a Good Title): Mostly True Stories of Family, Friends, Faith & Foibles. The book was recently awarded the Silver Medal for Non-fiction Humor by the Midwest Book Awards.

Bill retired from full-time parish ministry in 2019 and since then has been on the staff of First Presbyterian (Stillwater) doing pastoral calling one day per week and preaching once a month. Once he retired from full-time work, he returned to one of his early loves, performing stand-up comedy. He has appeared at Ac

me Comedy Club, Rick Bronson's House of Comedy at the Mall of America, and other venues around the Twin Cities. He prides himself on finding laughter without resorting to profanity.

Bill and his wife, Kris Jacobson, live in Minnetonka. They have three adult children. Following his performance at Trinity, He will be available to sell and sign books. A Kindle version of the book is also available from Amazon and an audiobook read by the author is available from Bill's website: billchadwick.com.

Church Announcements

The Building & Grounds Committee plans to replace the flooring in the sanctuary. The flooring is original to the building construction in 1987 and is very worn. The cost will be approximately \$19,000.

One of our members has offered a gift of about a third of that amount and is challenging the rest of the congregation to donate the remainder. The Session is asking each member to consider making a donation equal to one extra month of donation for this year (i.e. a 13th month for 2023). Members are asked to do this between now

and July 16th. Please mark your payment as "Sanctuary flooring." If you need to do it later than mid-July, please notify the church office of your intent to contribute before the end of the year. Trinity has received a \$5,000 Ministry Imagination Grant from the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area). The grant will be used to offer a series of four speakers who will tell of experiences of their homeland, their refugee journey, and their transition to becoming Minnesota residents. Trinity's first guest spoke on 6/21, and the remaining three will speak at Trinity in July and August.

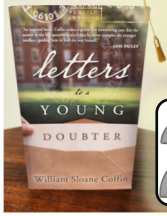
Trinity has invited the larger community through social media and a direct mailing postcards to those living within 1.5 miles of Trinity.

Trinity has installed several rain gardens in the past. Some of the members who have cared for these gardens have left Trinity and Woodbury. If you have interest in volunteering to serve in this manner, please contact Rita Thomas, chair of the Building & Grounds Committee. Training is available.

Pastor April resumes her Sabbatical this on September 10. She returns to the office November 6.

Trinity Presbyterian Program Financial Summary			Thru month of	May-23
	Month Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Total Program Donations	\$17,073.90	\$126,356.12	\$105,053.47	\$252,128.37
Total Program Expenditures	\$21,031.48	\$114,573.89	\$117,544.02	\$279,942.42
Donations Less Expenses	(\$3,957.58)	\$11,782.23	(\$12,490.55)	(\$27,814.05)
Checking Roll Forward Add	\$1,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$12,000.00
Income Less Expenses	(\$2,957.58)	\$16,782.23	(\$7,490.55)	(\$15,814.05)
Program Mortgage Expense	\$4,344.90	\$21,724.50	Actual program donations for 2023 thru May: \$126,356 Budgeted program donations through the month: \$105,053 Difference: \$21,302 Prog. Don. w/JAN Lg. donations prorated for 2023 thru May: \$115,856 Budgeted program donations through the month: \$105,053 Difference: \$10,802 Updated for July Edition	
Mortgage Principal Paid	\$3,885.27	\$19,283.72		
Mortgage Interest Paid	\$459.63	\$2,440.78		
Mortgage Balance	\$133,825.58			

Graduation Sunday, 6/11



Lindsay, Milan, Pastor April, Edlyn & Brianne

On Sunday, June 11th, Trinity recognized their high school graduates during worship. They were highlighted in the worship slide show, spoke about future plans and presented with the book, *Letters to a Young Doubter*, by William Sloan Collins & a 2023 keychain. Trinity wishes you the best!

New Member Sunday, 6/18



Trinity received four new members during the Caring & Sharing worship service.

Afterward, a celebratory reception followed in the fellowship hall.

Welcome to Trinity's newest members: Anna Awasom, Emma wasom, Gayle Strand & Virginia Pleban. (Not pictured: Virginia Pleban).



Confirmation Sunday, 6/25

Congratulations to Trinity's confirmands! Trinity celebrated Estelle Aborungong, Solomon Campbell, Deron Fonteh, Edward Griffiths and Tove Griffiths.





Music Director Sabbatical: July/August

In recognition of Jane's faithful ministry with us for the past six and a half years, Trinity is giving her four week of sabbatical time away in July and August. We pray that her time away is both refreshing and renewing. Thank you, Jane, for all you do at Trinity!

4 Speaker Series Underway! Join Us 7/12, Edward Mwakana (Rep. of Congo)

***LISTEN TO INSPIRING REFUGEE JOURNEYS
with desserts & discussion!***



Meet your newest Twin Cities neighbors with dessert & discussion.
Listen to 4 amazing refugee stories at Trinity Presbyterian Church.

Embracing Our Neighbors - Four Speaker Series Coming To Trinity

In the recent past, Trinity has been deeply moved to support the newest neighbors in our midst, refugees from other countries. In partnership with the Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Services, Trinity has collected and filled 25 buckets with cleaning supplies, valued at \$1500, to support refugees from Afghanistan who have settled in the Twin Cities. In addition, Trinity collected 35 pillows, and provided new pillow covers to those who arrived in the Twin Cities with only a suitcase and a heart full of hope.

7/12 - Speaker #2, Edward Mwakana is a preacher and teacher from the Democratic Republic of Congo. After fleeing their country in 2003, he and his wife spent the next 15 years in refugee camps in Namibia until they, along with their four children, arrived in the United States in 2018. Edward's background includes studies in Latin, philosophy, law and theology. He continuously gives back to his new Minnesota community by serving as an interpreter for new refugee arrivals in more than five languages.

8/2 - Speaker #3, Hawra Alnabi is an Iraqi American who was born in the village of Al-Fahood in southern Iraq. In 1991, her family joined the uprising against Saddam Hussein and was forced to flee for safety. After living in a refugee camp in northern Saudi Arabia with 30,000 other families for five years, her family came to the U.S. in 1996 when Alnabi was 8 years old. They then moved to MN in 1997 for better job opportunities. She's currently the operations coordinator at Education Evolving, a small nonprofit organization. She is a wife and a mom to a 14 year old boy and a 3 year old girl.

8/23 - Speaker #4, Sahar Karimi was part of the horrendous, emergency evacuation from Kabul Airport, Afghanistan, in August 2021. At age 16, along with her parents, 3 siblings and cousin, she left her entire life behind as she fled to the airport hoping to secure a place on a plane that would take her to safety. After a period of processing at an American airbase in Germany, she and her family were flown to Fort McCoy, WI where they awaited matching with a resettlement agency. She now calls MN her new home, and fully embraces every opportunity to create a future that is full of hope.

Refugee Speaker #1 of 4, Okunyi Agid of Ethiopia Spoke at Trinity

Trinity's four-speaker series kicked off on Wed., 6/21 with guest speaker **Okuni Agid of Ethiopia**.



Okunyi spoke of the many challenges in her life; fleeing Ethiopia, 8 years in a refugee camp, her extraordinary journey to the United States and her transition to living in MN with her children. The remaining speakers will be at Trinity on Wednesday eves (7/12, 8/2 & 8/23) from 7-8:30pm.

Trinity served an array of desserts by *Nothing Bundt Cakes* of Woodbury, with refreshments to approximately 50 guests. Trinity expects higher attendance for the second speaker. Feel free to invite a friend or your neighbors!



Okunyi & Pastor April



Volunteers are needed!



Are you able to help?

Can you help? *Volunteers are needed* for the next 3 speakers from 6:30-8:30pm. Please see Pastor April or sign up in the church office.



Trinity Donation of Supplies to MCC Refugee Services

MCC Refugee Services has had a busy season for welcoming refugees. The shelves in their donation room have been clearing much faster than they would like.

Earlier in June, Trinity's Mission & Action Committee purchased items that are of urgent need at the MCC Refugee Services Center. These purchased items were picked up by MCC's Kathryn Berger on 6/13. The donation totaled \$550.00, and will help and support our newest neighbors, making them feel at home more quickly.

A Letter of Thanks from MN Council of Churches - Refugee Service

"Dear Pastor April & Congregation, World crises have had dramatic impact on communities overseas. This impact has been seen locally as Minnesota Council of Churches continues to welcome those forced to flee from their homes. We are privileged to be able to respond to these emergent needs quickly and confidently, but we cannot do this alone. The abundant support of our communities and partners like you provides stability for people in their new homes, helps families celebrate holidays and cultural traditions together, and allows newcomers to start working more quickly to support themselves and their families. Trinity donated: 10 brooms/dustpan sets, 20 containers sanitizer wipes, 12 jugs of Tide detergent, 48 cleaning sponges, 16 toothbrushes & toothpaste, 20 Dove deodorants, 25 Degree deodorants, 52 razors and 64 Dove soap bars. With this generous donation, you join MCC Refugee Services in extending welcome to those who seek to call Minnesota home. Thank you!"

-Kathryn Berger, Volunteer & Outreach Specialist: Refugee Services, MCC



Free Will Offering to Support Refugees

Throughout the refugee speaker series, Trinity will have a free will offering on the welcome table in the fellowship hall entrance. All offerings collected during the events will go toward the purchase of much needed supplies for refugees. The collection of supplies is in partnership with Minnesota Council of Churches, Refugee Services. Thank you for your generosity and your demonstrated care for refugees through your previous donations at MCC of pillows and cases, blessed buckets filled with cleaning supplies, and your most recent donation of cleaning and personal supplies. These gifts welcome those who have experienced a difficult journey and provides them some comfort from Trinity's caring congregation.



Announcements

7/1 - FSSF, First Sunday (of each month) Soul Feast - Discuss Sunday scripture with your peers after worship on the first Sunday of each month. The discussion will be guided by questions from the Life Connections Study Bible (formerly Serendipity Study Bible). No preparation will be necessary, just an interest in further reflecting on the scripture lessons and connecting them to life. It is a shared leadership opportunity so if you feel called, please sign up to be a discussion leader for a Sunday. Contact Pastor April if you have any questions.

7/8 - Saturday, 6PM

Rev. Bill Chadwick Returns

Join Trinity in the Fellowship Hall for a family-friendly comedy routine by Rev. Bill Chadwick. There will be fellowship time following and the event is open to the public. Trinity's Community Outreach and Communications Committee is sponsoring the event with the Board of Deacons assisting. We hope to see you!

7/16 - Praise on the Patio, (In person only) Join Trinity for worship outdoors! Bring a blanket, a chair, or maybe even a shade umbrella.



After Church Lunch Outing SUN, July 16th-

Let's get to know each other better with lunch outings! We will meet the third Sunday each month. All interested will gather in Narthex post

-worship (look for Brad Wright). We will select a reasonable location once we gather. Next date: TBA. Questions? Contact Brad Wright.

7/16 - Refugee Guest Speaker: Edward Mwakana (Rep. of Congo) w/discussion & dessert from 7pm-8:30pm. All are welcome!



You're Invited! Sunday, On August 20th, Jane Williams & Ross Anderson

invite you to witness their short marriage vows immediately following the Sunday worship service on the patio August 20. Join them in celebrating with cake and lemonade in the fellowship hall afterward. PLEASE no cards or gifts!

MEETINGS

Deacon Meeting - Tue. 7/11, 9AM-10AM

Committees Meet: 8/24

No July meeting.

Session Meet: 8/24

No July meetings.

July Game Night: Join your friends for Friday fun! Covid-19 Vaccinations are required. 7/14, 7pm at the Freemans home.



Volunteers Needed For 3 Upcoming Speakers

Can you help while our guests speak at Trinity? Trinity is look-

ing for individuals to help host our refugee speakers on the following Wednesdays: 7/12, 8/2 & 8/23. We currently have our first team of 6 volunteers covering our 1st speaker on June 21. The speaking events are from 7:00-8:30p. We will need 6 volunteers from 6:00-8:30PM. Please contact Jane Williams or Pastor April if you can help host. Again, thank you everyone!



Flowers for Sanctuary Flooring - Sprinter Fundraiser

June 1 to July 16th. For every gift given toward renewing Trinity's sanctuary flooring, a flower will be added to the garden banners now hanging in the church entryway on your behalf. Please help Trinity add flowers to fundraising garden and work toward the goal of \$19,000. Let's watch our garden grow. All gifts will be matched at 100% up to \$6,500. Details on pgs. 1, 4 & 5.



Trinity QR Code You can now give using Trinity's QR code.

Happy July Birthday •

Anna B.
Chris B.
D.C. B.
Wendy C.
Arlene C.
Betty H.
Tom L.

Robin M.
Martin M.
Angela R.
Katerina S.
Kathleen S.
Julia T.
Darryl W.