



TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PATHWAYS Newsletter

OCTOBER 2023

Trinity Intergenerational Orchestra - Sun., Dec. 10th!



It been a few years since Trinity's Intergenerational Orchestra made its debut, but we would like to reprise it on Sunday, December 10th! This orchestra is entirely "Intergenerational," comprised of those who can play an instrument.....ages 5th grade to Senior Citizens. Back by popular demand is the conductor: John Griffiths.

Rehearsals will be held on Sunday, November 19 and Sunday, December 3 from 11:00-12:00.

Sunday, December 10 is the date this orchestra will play during the worship service at Trinity on the Prelude, the hymns, and the Postlude.

Please let either John Griffiths Jane Wasiluk know by Sunday, November 5th, if you would like to play, and what instrument. John and Jane will get the respective music parts ready for you (contact information is located in Trinity's congregational directory).

FALL MISSION: Winter Wear!

Fall is here and the schools in

South Washington County district are in full swing. Trinity's Mission Committee would like to invite the congregation to join with us for the opportunity to donate some winter supplies for children in need in the school district.

From October 15th through November 12th, we will be collecting NEW warm socks, hats and waterproof gloves/mittens for these children. We will not have a list of specific children with clothing needs as we have done in the past. Please purchase any of these items for children and youth.

Sizes: Pre-k through high school age.

Watch for the collection bins in the Welcome Room or entry area at the front doors of the church. We will be delivering these much needed items to the school district on the Monday before Thanksgiving. Thank you!



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

OCT. 1

World Communion Sunday
Rev. Robert Hamilton



11AM - FSSF: David

OCT. 8

Rev. Robert Hamilton
11:30AM - Italian Lunch

OCT. 15

Rev. Robert Hamilton
Moment for Generosity
ACLO - 11AM
Sunday School - 11:15AM

OCT. 22

Rev. Cindy Ray Preaching
Moment for Mission

OCT. 29

Robert Hamilton Preaching
Moment for Generosity
Bread Baking - 11:30 to 1:30PM



P&GW Special Offering on 10/1, World Communion Sunday!



A Congregational Cookbook of Recipes & Remembrances!

As a community building event, Trinity's Community Outreach & Communications Committee is putting together a Trinity cookbook. Good food has always been a strength at Trinity! We are looking for your favorite recipes with stories or remembrances of them. We ask that you please try to give some general instructions to follow for those that don't typically use recipes. **Please email your recipes and remembrances to Brad Wright by Sunday, October 15th.** If you have questions, please contact Brad (contact info is located in congregational directory).



Food for the Journey, Fed at the Table

Pastor April 's Fall 2023 Sabbatical

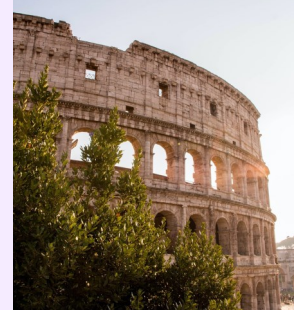
Pastor April's time of renewal is underway!
Below is an outline of her Fall Renewal Program.
Her sabbatical is through Lilly Endowment.

Lilly
Endowment
Clergy
Renewal
Programs

| Dates: | Events or Activities (Tentative itinerary, some dates/details have changed) |
|-------------|--|
| 9/10 | Pastor April's last day in the pulpit |
| 9/11-10/8 | Decompress and prepare for travel, confirm travel arrangements, Rest, exercise, savor the peace and quiet. |
| 10/8-10/16 | Travel from Minneapolis t JFK to Rome, for 8-day tour of Christian sites in Italy with Bob, Emmett and Solomon (see details below). |
| 10/17-10/23 | Return home Rest, write, meet with spiritual director, exercise. |
| 10/23-10/28 | Pastor April travels to Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove, Indiana, for time of rest, reflection and writing. |
| 10/28-11/5 | Pastor April returns home to rest, reflect, and journal about experiences. |
| 11/6-11/11 | Pastor April resumes normal office hours. |
| 11/11 | Pastor April's Birthday |
| 11/12 | Generosity Sunday at Trinity - Pastor April returns to preach, celebratory luncheon after worship. Pastor April will share travel photos with Trinity during the meal. |

Rome, Italy - Travel Itinerary (Final Itinerary)

- 10/1 - Flight departs MPLS in morning.
- 10/2 - Arrive in Rome in AM, Private transfer to hotel, 7 nights at Romanico Palace.
- 10/3 - Private morning walking tour (4 hours)
- 10/4 - Small group tour of Colosseum, Roman Forum (3 hours)
- 10/5 - Private Vatican Museum tour including Sistine Chapel (3 hours)
- 10/6 - Small Group Rome Squares and Fountains Walking Tour (3 hours)
- 10/7 - Shared Pizza Making Class at The Studio in Trastevere with Dinner (2.5 hours)
- 10/8 - A day on our own. (Trinity shares "A Taste of Italy" catered lunch)
- 10/9 - Private transfer to airport. Flight departs Rome arriving in MPLS late evening.



Visiting Pastors & Upcoming Special Events



While Pastor April is away during the second half of her sabbatical (9/6-11/6), Trinity will welcome back **Rev. Robert Hamilton**. He will preach at Trinity on several Sundays; 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, and 10/29 (10/22: Rev. Cindy Ray preaching).



Sunday, 10/22 - Rev. Cindy Ray will preach at Trinity on Sunday, 10/22. Cindy is a teaching elder in the PCUSA and member of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area (PTCA). She serves as Executive Director of the Presbyterian Association of Homes & Services for the Aging (PAHSA). She is also employed as Senior Communication Specialist with Presbyterian Homes & Services (PHS), a member of PAHSA. Cindy served for over 25 years as pastor to congregations in Florida, Missouri & MN. She currently serves on the PTCA Pastoral Leader Care Team, the Dementia Friendly America National Council, Minnesota Council of Churches finance commission and the Women in Leadership Advisory Board for Minnesota State University-Mankato, MN. Cindy has been a contributing author to The Presbyterian Outlook, Horizons Magazine and These Days devotional magazine. She is a graduate of the University of Kansas, Princeton Theological Seminary and the Ecumenical Institute of the World Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland. Cindy lives in St. Paul, with husband, Steve. They're active in the life of Macalester-Plymouth United Church (St. Paul).

“Taste of Italy” Sabbatical Meal On 10/8

During her sabbatical, Pastor April & family will be touring Rome, Italy. Trinity's congregation will also get a taste of Italy with a catered Italian lunch.

Thank you for your RSVP's everyone!



10/29 - Bake Bread With Chef Jason Ross!

Chef Jason will be coming to Trinity on Sunday, 10/20, from 11:30-1:30pm to instruct bread making! The bread will be for individual consumption, as well as the pastor's communion bread.



- **What to bring:** A large mixing bowl.
- **RSVP required:** By Thursday, 10/19.

More about Chef Jason: Jason grew up and completed his culinary training in New York City, then built a successful career at high-profile restaurants including Bouley, Aquavit, and Solera, where he served as executive chef. He has been an instructor at Saint Paul College since 2006, where the best part of the job is getting the opportunity to work with former students in the field.

11/12 Welcome Back Pastor April & Generosity Sunday Celebration!



On Sunday, Nov. 11, Trinity invites you to attend a **Welcome Back Meal** in honor of Pastor April's return from the second part of her sabbatical. Pastor April plans to share sabbatical photos with you. Gather in the fellowship hall (11:30am) to share this meal together and also to celebrate a successful generosity campaign to fund the 2024 church budget. RSVP's are nrequired. Please be sure to submit your **RSVP by Thursday, Nov. 9th**. Sign up



Qualified Charitable Distribution From Your IRA

Qualified charitable distributions, or QCDs, are direct gifts from an IRA to an eligible charity, such as Trinity Presbyterian Church. Investors age 70½ and older may donate up to \$100,000 per year, and it may count as their Required Minimum Distribution (or part of it if the RMD is larger than the donation) once they turn 72 or 73 (depending on year of your birth).

While the maneuver doesn't provide a charitable deduction, donors may see other significant tax benefits, financial experts say. For most people, most of the time, you're going to be better off doing this as your first source of charitable giving.

The primary benefit of a QCD is that the transfer doesn't count as taxable income, he said.

Since fewer Americans itemize deductions, it can be difficult to claim a write-off for charitable gifts. However, retirees taking the standard deduction may still benefit from a QCD because it won't be part of their adjusted gross income.

Moreover, a QCD reduces their IRA balance, cutting the size of future required minimum distributions. That's a relatively small benefit for most people but still relevant.

Perks of Less Adjusted Gross Income

While most people don't make charitable donations solely because of the tax breaks, QCDs may offer a big one: reducing adjusted gross income. That's important because [higher] adjusted gross income often triggers a lot of other tax ramifications. For example, more adjusted gross income may cause a hike in monthly premiums for Medicare Part B and Part D. The surcharge, known as the Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount, or IRMAA, adds an extra fee for a year once income exceeds a certain level.

Another example is the medical expense write-off. Those who itemize deductions may claim a tax break for qualified expenses that exceed 7.5% of adjusted gross income. A lower adjusted gross income creates a lower amount to claim the deduction.

QCD Missteps

One of the biggest issues with QCDs is that the transfers aren't separate on Form 1099-R, which reports retirement plan distributions to the IRS. For example, if someone withdraws \$50,000 in a year and \$20,000 is for a QCD, the form will still report \$50,000 in total distributions, even though only \$30,000 is taxable income. It's up to you to keep track of how much of that money went directly to charity.

Additionally, the payment from the IRA must be made directly to the charity. If someone writes a check from their IRA to a charity at the end of December, it must clear from their IRA by Dec. 31 to count for the year. Retirees, however, may bypass the issue by having their custodian cut the check.

In order to make a QCD to Trinity, please contact your IRA custodian or trustee. **Disclaimer:** this article may not be relied upon as tax advice. Please also contact a tax professional for such advice.

Session Activity From Last Month

Please note: September Session met very late in September. All Sept. session activities will be shared in the Nov. issue of Pathways. Trinity's Aug. Session activities are reprinted below (summarized for content).

One of the congregation's activities while Pastor April is away will include a catered Italian meal on 10/8 while she is in Rome, Italy learning about the early Christian church. We will have a bread baking opportunity with professional Chef Jason Ross after the worship service on 10/29 from 11:30 to 1:30. On 11/12 we will have a catered welcome back meal that will also celebrate Generosity with Pastor April sharing some of her sabbatical photos.

The Building & Grounds Committee and the Session have begun planning for a much-needed replacement of the parking lot pavement and lighting. You will hear more about this early in 2024.

Speaking of 2024, we are already beginning to plan our budget for the new year. You will be receiving information on this from the Generosity & Finance Committee in October with Generosity Sunday planned for Sunday, 11/12 upon Pastor April's return.

The Session has approved a recommendation of the Worship Committee for year-end holiday worship services. We are planning a Blue Christmas service on 12/17. On Sunday, 12/24, we are planning one Christmas Eve worship service that evening (no service morning). On New Year's Eve, Trinity will have the usual 10:00 am Sunday morning service. Please watch for more details and announcements for details.

Between 10/15 and 11/12, the congregation will have the opportunity to donate socks, gloves, or mittens for the SoWashCoCares project for school children. The annual Christmas Joy Offering will be offered at Trinity in December.

As always, the Session appreciates each of our members and friends and encourages feedback on the mission and ministry of Trinity Presbyterian Church. Please consider joining one of our committees. **-Jay Wilkinson, Clerk of Session**

| Trinity Presbyterian Program Financial Summary | | | Thru month of | Aug-23 |
|--|--------------|---------------|--|---------------|
| | Month Actual | YTD Actual | YTD Budget | Annual Budget |
| Total Program Donations | \$12,270.88 | \$168,850.26 | \$168,085.57 | \$252,128.37 |
| Total Program Expenditures | \$20,071.65 | \$183,311.66 | \$186,203.79 | \$279,942.42 |
| Donations Less Expenses | (\$7,800.77) | (\$14,461.40) | (\$18,118.22) | (\$27,814.05) |
| Checking Roll Forward Add | \$1,000.00 | \$8,000.00 | \$8,000.00 | \$12,000.00 |
| Income Less Expenses | (\$6,800.77) | (\$6,461.40) | (\$10,118.22) | (\$15,814.05) |
| | | | Actual program donations for 2023 thru August: \$168,850 Budgeted program donations through the month: \$168,085 Difference: \$764 Program donations w/JAN lg. donations prorated for 2023 thru August: \$162,850 Budgeted program donations through the month: \$168,085 Difference: (\$5,235) (October Pathways) | |
| Program Mortgage Expense | \$4,344.90 | \$34,759.20 | | |
| Mortgage Principal Paid | \$3,910.20 | \$30,990.15 | | |
| Mortgage Interest Paid | \$434.70 | \$3,769.05 | | |
| Mortgage Balance | \$122,119.15 | | | |

(October Pathways)

Struggling for Abundant Life - AUG 2023

A Letter from Jed and Jenny Koball, serving in Peru, Fall 2023
I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. –
 John 10:10

“El mar no se vende! El mar se defiende!” (The sea is not for sale! The sea must be defended!).

Standing on the shores of Ventanilla just minutes north of Lima in the region of Callao, Maria Chirinos leads her fellow community activists in a chant to express their dismay at the mounting risks to human and environmental health in their neighborhoods.



Maria Chirinos (in black, holding the white sign) stands with her fellow members of the Regional Platform of Callao for Human and Environmental Health as they demand that REPSOL take responsibility for the oil spills that contaminate the seashore.

In January of 2022, two oil spills from a refinery owned by the transnational company REPSOL contaminated the beaches of Callao. The immediate impacts were seen as the crude oil washed ashore, blackening the sands, and entrapping wildlife. A superficial clean-up ensued, but the denser oil still rests on the seabed, poisoning the waters, and affecting the ecosystems, community life and livelihoods. Many who live on the shores of Callao are fisherfolk and have fled the area in search of new seas to fish or new means of feeding their families. Some have stayed, knowing the risks to their own health and people who consume their fish catch.

However, the oil spills are not the only issues impacting human and environmental health in Callao. A few miles inland at the heart of the industrial zone of this port city, storage containers leak toxins from minerals mined in the Andes and waiting to be shipped around the world; chemical and pharmaceutical companies discharge their waste into the Chillón River (one of the three major rivers that feed the Lima metropolitan area); battery production emits toxins into the air that have been shown to generate excessive levels of lead in nearby grade school children; and, mining for rocks used in asphalt and cement eats away at important natural reserves and unique coastal ecosystems.

In 2021 Maria sought out Red Uniendo Manos Peru (RUMP), our global partner, and asked for help in organizing her community in the interest of advocating for human and environmental health. Such work has been at the heart of RUMP’s mission going back more than 20 years. Rooted in Jesus’ hope of abundant life for all people and informed by Andean indigenous spiritualities reflected in the modern concept of Buen Vivir (“good living” or “plentiful life”) the pursuit of human and environmental health values justice within society, and balance with natural surroundings. In this way, the abundant life that God wills for us is predicated not on the acquisition of wealth or development of the world, but rather on equitable relationships among peoples and harmony with all of nature. Without clean air, land and water, we cannot live in peace; and without justice in society, we are doomed to destroy the one common home we share.



For over 20 years, Red Uniendo Manos Peru accompanied and organized families of La Oroya, Peru in defense of their right to a clean environment and specialized health care in the face of a metals smelter that left the town to be considered one of the five most contaminated places in the world

For RUMP the pursuit of abundant life began in the Andean town of La Oroya, known as one of the five most contaminated places in the world due to the toxic emissions from a metallurgical smelter once owned by a U.S. company. In La Oroya 98.6% of children were shown to have levels of lead in their blood far surpassing World Health Organization thresholds. Despite such obvious indicators of generational crisis, violent tension existed in the town about what to do: support the company and its promise of prosperity or, stand in opposition to the company and together with mothers and children in pursuit of life?



Children in Callao who attend a grade school (light blue building) adjacent to a battery factory and a storage facility for toxic minerals have been shown to have blood lead levels surpassing World Health Organization.

The Red Uniendo Manos Peru chose life.

Eventually, the smelter shut down in 2009 when it declared bankruptcy following years of our partner and community leaders advocating for the enforcement of environmental regulations, but that was not the end of the story as the toxins it emitted over decades still resided in the soils. And so, the focus of the work turned to advocating for specialized health care for the residents of La Oroya, remediation of the soils, and the establishment and enforcement of regulations to ensure such contamination never happened again. In 2012, RUMP drafted and got passed a regional law for Human and Environmental Health for Communities Affected by Toxic Metals. And yet, by 2017 it became clear that this regional law could not be implemented without changes to national law.

Recognizing the limitations of its influence at the national level, RUMP reached out to other regions of the country also affected by toxic metal contamination from the mining industry. With the support of other organizations and allies in civil society they helped organize the National Platform for Peoples Affected by Toxic Metals and Metalloids which today represents 17 regions of the country (and 11 million people – a third of the population of Peru) that have been determined to be at risk from toxic metal contamination, largely due to mining, oil and other extractive activity. Using the regional law written by RUMP as a model, together they drafted a national Specialized Human and Environmental Health Law. This law was passed in 2021 and mandates that each region of the country design health care and environmental protocols and practices to meet the unique demands of contamination from toxic metals in their respective locales.

The fight today is to get this national law implemented in each region of the country. With the people of La Oroya well organized in this effort, the RUMP has accepted the invitation of Maria Chirinos and her fellow community leaders who make up the newly established Regional Platform of Callao for Human and Environmental Health. Fundamental to this work is the building of solidarity – not just in Callao but across Peru and throughout the world. The powers of death and destruction that operate in Peru are global in nature and thus demand a global proclamation for life. Over the years you have graciously accompanied and supported the people of La Oroya, and now with tremendous gratitude, I invite you to walk with us in Callao. Your voice, your presence, your generosity, and your courage are invaluable in this struggle for abundant life!

In solidarity (and on behalf of Jenny), Jed

This article was published by: presbyterianmission.org.

[Presbyterian Mission Agency A Letter from Jed and Jenny Koball, serving in Peru Fall 2023 | Presbyterian Mission Agency](#)

OCTOBER CHURCH EVENTS - AT A GLANCE

10/1 - FSSF, First Sun. Soul Feast

O 10/1, we will discuss *David* in our continuing discussions on Figures from the Old Testament. On 11/5: Elijah. Join us in the fellowship hall!

Sunday School

Beatitudes Lesson 10, *Blessed are those who are persecuted.* (Matt.5:10) Meets 11:15am-12:15pm. Class meets on the 3rd Sunday each month.

After Church Lunch Outing

ACLO meets SUN., 10/15 at 11am on the 3rd SUN each month. All are invited to this get-to-know-each-other-better lunch outing! Look for Brad W. in the Narthex at 11:00am. The group will agree on a restaurant as a group.

Thank you for your RSVP's!

10/8 "Taste of Italy" Italian Meal, 11:30am

RSVP By 10/21 - 10/29 Bread Lesson, Bring Lg. bowl!

**RSVP by 11/2 - 11/12 Pastor April's Welcome
Back Luncheon & Generosity
Sunday Celebration**

October Meetings:

CCMT (Deacons): Tue., 10/10, Time: TBA

Committees: Thur., 10/12, 6&7PM

Session: Thur., 10/26, 7PM

November 28th - Guest speaker & dessert!

Join Trinity to hear mission speaker Joshua Heikkila, from Ghana. 7-8:30 PM.

THANK YOU to all who helped w/Fall Clean Up! You are so very greatly appreciated!
-Trinity



**Sunday,
November
12th!**



**Happy October
Birthday to...**

**Dick J.
Marie S.
Fru A.
Edlyn F.
Rose N. K.**

**Jan B.
Lexi D.
Juliana V.
Tristan S.**