



TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PATHWAYS Newsletter

AUGUST 2023

Refugee Journeys - 8/2 Hawra Alnabi & 8/23 Sahar Karimi

Trinity invites you to listen to the final two speakers in the "New Neighbor" refugee journey series, Wednesday eves: 8/2 and 8/23, 7-8:30 pm.

Hawra and Sahar are excited to share their homeland experiences, their transition process, and the story of their lives after settling in the Twin Cities. The speaker events include a discussion time in which the speaker will address questions, and the event will also offer an array of desserts to be shared together (*Nothing Bunt Cakes*).

On August 2nd, listen to the story of



Hawra Alnabi.

Hawra 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 mom to a 14 yr. old boy and 3 yr. old girl.

On Wednesday, August 23rd, **Sahar**



Karimi will share her story. Sahar (originally from Afghanistan) 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. (Note: 8/23 hosts still needed.)

SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 AM

August 6th - 10AM
Alternative Working Worship
& Potluck
Pre-recorded Service
(not live)
11AM - FSSF
11AM Fellowship

August 13th - 10AM
11AM Fellowship

August 20th - 10AM
Praise On the Patio
(In person /No Youtube)

**11AM - Ross & Jane's
Marriage Vows on Patio**
Join them for cake afterward
in the fellowship hall

11AM - A.C.L.O.
(After Church Lunch Outing)

August 27th - 10AM
Back to School Blessing
11AM Fellowship

Flowers For Flooring - Fundraiser Goal Met!

Thank you to each and every one of you who donated to replace Trinity's sanctuary flooring. Your generous gifts streamed in each week and flowers appeared each week, filling Trinity's fundraising Banners to the very top! The project total/goal was \$19,000.00. The total raised was...

\$21,770.00!

THANK YOU Trinity Families! YOU have filled Trinity's garden with your gifts of GROWTH, RENEWAL, GENEROSITY! Trinity's sanctuary carpet was original to the building construction (1987) and very worn. The new flooring will offer fantastic longevity and will boast a lovely rich color with an updated look.

Please see page 2 for flooring installation details.



Sanctuary Flooring Update - Next Sunday, 8/6 - Help is Needed



8/6, Alternative "Working Worship"

In an effort to align ourselves with our ongoing need for flexibility, Trinity will offer an alternative "working worship" on Sunday August 6th. The congregation will come to Trinity on Sunday and we will worship while we work, as we lovingly clean and reassemble the sanctuary, blessing the renewed space because **"God is indeed the builder of everything," (Hebrews 3:4)**. Everyone can participate in some fashion; lifting, moving, directing & dusting (moving dollies are again needed). Please dress comfortably. After moving all furnishings back into the sanctuary, Trinity will host a potluck meal in the fellowship hall. Please bring a dish to share. There will be a prerecorded worship message that day.

Thank You to Our Helping Hands!

On Sunday, 7/30, Trinity's congregation stayed after worship to empty the church sanctuary in preparation for the Monday morning flooring installation. With our amazing team of helping hands, we were able to empty the entire space in about 20 minutes. Thank you everyone!

The install is expected to be finished by Friday, 8/4. On Sunday, August 6th we will reassemble the sanctuary during an alternative "working worship" and then have a potluck meal afterward. We hope you can join us! Stay tuned for more project photos.

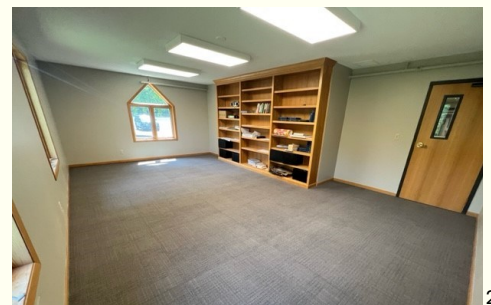
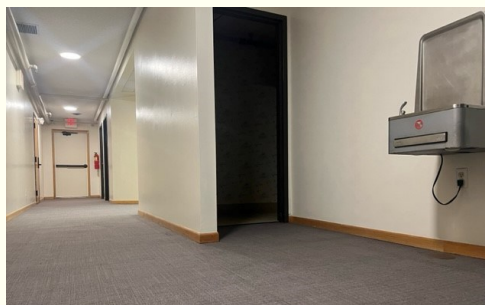
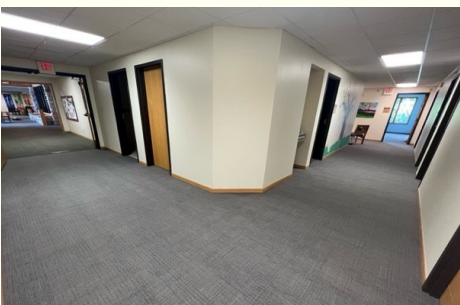
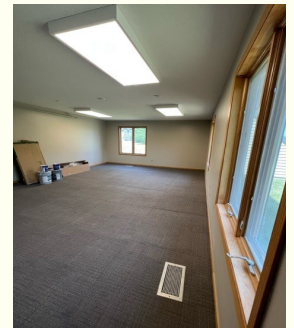
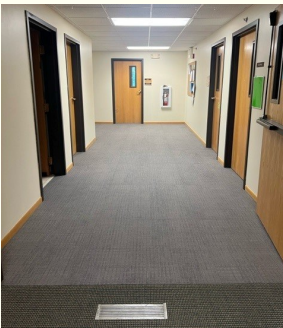


Trinity's large viewing screen is protected with drop cloths (Pictured: Greg & Scott VanderVeer).



The work crew will be installing the sanctuary flooring from July 31st through August 4th.

Trinity Education Wing - Restoration Nearly Complete! All of the water-damaged areas have been addressed and the educational wing looks amazing. Take a peek at the new carpet "tiles" throughout the wing. The fluorescent lights have been replaced with energy efficient LED fixtures, and all walls and ceilings have been repaired and finished with fresh paint. Please help us keep the space clean by only bringing water to the space. Thank you for your patience during the ongoing construction!



A Letter From Joan Nichols

Dear friends at Trinity,

Greetings! I think of you when I read news and prayer requests from Trinity, and have enjoyed learning of your refugee guest series, new confirmands and members, and summer activities.

Here, during the months of June through the end of August it rarely rains, so although the weather is hotter now, it's not humid. Consequently, Nathan and I are enjoying some day trips or short overnights. These have included a few regional and state parks as well as Mt. Rainier, Mt. St. Helens, and Olympic National Parks. We plan to make one short trip yet this month to Denver, visiting with Nathan's dad and his wife and becoming acquainted in person with Meredith's parents, our son Jason's fiancé. In September, Nathan and I hope to travel east by car, as we visit various national park sites, attend an engagement party in Denver, and continue on for visits with family and friends in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, and possibly Ohio.

Our daughter Andra and her fiancé Ben were married in Eagle Fern Park on June 24th amidst about 90 relatives and friends. We were fortunate to have nice weather and the opportunity to enjoy the surroundings of old growth trees, a creek, a picnic lunch, and space for lawn games. Andra and Ben had planned a simple ceremony with their own vows and an opportunity for the parents to share a blessing or message to the couple. Since Nathan and I are the only relatives on either Ben or Andra's sides of the family living anywhere nearby, the joy of the event and visiting required much preparation for hosting and feeding guests. How thankful we are for our home and to be able to be more involved in Andra and Ben's life together! Since February, we have become regular

attendees at the Portland Mennonite Church. In addition to Sunday worship, Nathan and I have enjoyed various adult education options, some social and ministry activities, and a relaxing church retreat on Mother's Day weekend at Twin Rocks Beach along the coast. Last evening, instead of a morning church service, we had a block party with a pot-luck meal and a short service followed by ice-cream.

In March, I joined a local community center, with a pool and fitness facilities. In addition to my normal fitness routine, I have begun Tai Chi and Gentle Yoga classes, completely new to me. Thankfully to God, after some health challenges from January through March, I am enjoying a period of better health.

At the beginning of June, Nathan and I traveled to Akron, PA, via a two day stay in Ottawa, Ontario. With wildfire smoke nearby in the province of Quebec, we spent our two days primarily inside at the National Galleries and the Canadian History Museum. Akron is the headquarters of the Mennonite Central Committee with which I served as a young adult. Except for one couple, the Brazil Alumni Reunion in Akron provided an opportunity to become reacquainted with some fellow volunteers I had last seen in May 1982! It was particularly fun to sing songs in Portuguese, and I discovered some former colleagues that live in the Pacific Northwest. (Hopefully, those old friendships might be able to be renewed.)

I would enjoy hearing from you, whether through email, snail mail, phone, or text.

All my best,
Joan

[Please see the church directory for contact info.]

Trinity Presbyterian Program Financial Summary

Trinity Presbyterian Program Financial Summary			Thru month of	Jun-23
	Month Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Total Program Donations	\$15,082.88	\$141,439.00	\$126,064.17	\$252,128.37
Total Program Expenditures	\$26,593.13	\$141,167.02	\$140,430.61	\$279,942.42
Donations Less Expenses	(\$11,510.25)	\$271.98	(\$14,366.44)	(\$27,814.05)
Checking Roll Forward Add	\$1,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$12,000.00
Income Less Expenses	(\$10,510.25)	\$6,271.98	(\$8,366.44)	(\$15,814.05)
Program Mortgage Expense	\$4,344.90	\$26,069.40	Actual program donations for 2023 thru April: \$109,282 Budgeted program donations through the month: \$84,043 Difference: \$25,239 Prog. donations w/JAN lg. donations prorated for 23' thru APR: \$97,282 Budgeted program donations through the month: \$84,043 Difference: \$13,239	
Mortgage Principal Paid	\$3,884.21	\$23,167.93		
Mortgage Interest Paid	\$460.69	\$2,901.47		
Mortgage Balance	\$129,941.37			

Guest Speaker - On 7/12, Edward Mwakana (speaker #2) of our New Neighbor/Refugee Journeys Series, told his amazing story. There was an open discussion with questions, and an array of desserts shared. Trinity's 3rd guest, Hawra Alnabi, will speak at Trinity on Wednesday, 8/2, 7-8:30PM.



Comedy Performance - Rev. Bill Chadwick
On Sat., 7/8, Trinity hosted guest speaker and comedian Rev. Bill Chadwick for an evening of laughs. This was a community event that was open to the public and nonperishable food items were collected for the local food shelf.



Thank You Trinity! - From PCUSA

Dear Partners in God's Ministry, On behalf of Presbyterian Mission, please convey our appreciation to your mission committee, pastor, session and congregation for your gracious and faithful support. Your gifts were the following:

Christmas Joy Offering 2022: \$880.00 & **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering 2023:** \$1,099.00.

The support of your congregation makes a difference in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ locally, nationally and around the world. Thank you, once again, for your witness to the Great Commission and your support of the Presbyterian church. You are a valued partner.

Rene Myers, Ministry Engagement Advisor
Office of Ministry Engagement and Support, PCUSA

Every Meal Thanks Trinity

Thank you Trinity, for your generous donation to Every Meal! Donors like you are vital to the continued success of our mission to fight child hunger through community and school partnerships, and we're grateful for your support.

On June 14, 2023, you made a financial contribution of \$1,300.00 to Every Meal. As a community-funded organization, your gift went right to work in providing meals to children facing food insecurity.

Over 300,000 MN children live with food insecurity. Children facing food insecurity who start receiving food support on the weekends improve socially, academically, behaviorally, and in their sense of self-worth. These improvements not only impact the children when they are young, but they also result in improved, long-term academic, career, and social performance that increase children's capabilities as they grow into adults.

We believe child hunger is solvable when we partner as a community to alleviate it. Your financial partnership plays an integral role in closing the gaps in food access that children face during weekends, summers, and extended breaks, in order to ensure that every child gets every meal. THANK YOU! We truly appreciate your support and look forward to continuing to partner with you in fighting child hunger.

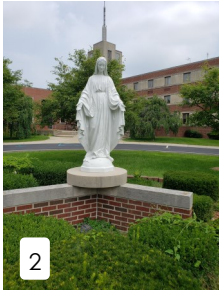


Rob Williams
President and Founder of Every Meal

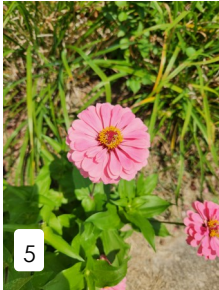
July Retreat - Pastor April's Visit to Our Lady of Grace Monastery



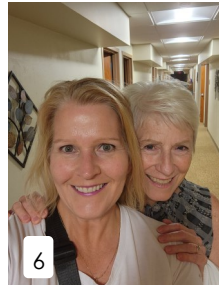
Caring for our Common Home was the theme of the Grace Filled Turnings retreat I just returned from. Grace-Filled Turnings is an initiative of Women Touched by Grace - Thriving in Ministry, a Lilly Endowment-funded program, to provide women clergy with the tools and encouragement to meet life's transitions.



The retreat focused on what communities, farmers, churches, corporations, and neighborhoods are doing their part to rebuild a healthy planet. Hidden stories of hope bring us the comfort that we are not alone. We listened and shared, prayed and rested into a new way of moving forward together on our planet.



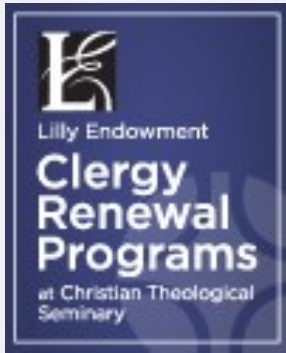
This retreat explored the part we each play in healing the earth while tending to our own souls. It was set in the midst of a community of Benedictine women who believe everyone and everything is to be treated “as a vessel of the altar” as prescribed by St. Benedict. Time at the monastery with the sisters, and colleagues in ministry is always inspiring, nurturing, and nourishing. It was a blessing to spend time in Beech Grove, Indiana.



With much gratitude, Pastor April

Photos: 1. The Benedict Inn Conference & Retreat Center 2. Our Lady of Grace Monastery 3. Sister Mary Luke, OSB 4. Sister Ann Papesh, OSB, my long-time, 12 years, prayer partner 5. Flowers in the Peace Garden 6. Colleague Rev. Katie Haney (PCUSA) 7. Stained glass in the Benedict Inn Chapel 8. A stencil from the Rule of St. Benedict in my room. 9. Wisdom from my tea cup. 10. Inspirational art 11. Colleagues Rev. Mary Sue Brookshire (UCC) and Rev. Katie Haney (PCUSA) 12-15. Evening prayer blessing (Pastor April is pictured on the far left in white attire).





Pastor April's Upcoming Fall Sabbatical

At a congregational meeting in February of 2022, Trinity unanimously approved the grant application for a Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Grant. Discussed at the congregational meeting were the details of the grant application, which included Pastor April being away on sabbatical in February and March 2023 and September and October 2023. Her time away in early 2023 included rest, exercise, writing, reading, baking, as well as, a stay in Florida with five female clergy colleagues and a visit to Napa, California to run the Napa Half Marathon, learn how wine is made, rest, read, and savor the scenery. Her time away in late 2023 includes rest, exercise, writing, reading, baking, an eight-day family trip to Rome and a four-day stay at Our Lady of Grace monastery in Beech Grove, Indiana.

In August of 2022, Trinity found out that its application for the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Grant was approved. Now the time is drawing near for Pastor April to be away. The grant provides for Pastor April, but it also provides for activities of renewal for Trinity. In the fall of 2023, part of September, October, and one week in November, Rev. Robert Hamilton will preach all Sundays, which the exception being Rev. Cindy Ray preaching October 22nd. Pastor James York from North Presbyterian Church will moderate session in September and October. In the event a member passes away while Pastor April is gone, Emilia Effiom will be the contact person who will reach out to designated pastors for memorial service coverage. In the event of an urgent congregational care need, members can provide information to Amy in the office who will contact Brad Wright and Kathie Wilkinson. Brad and Kathie will arrange for a follow-up phone call or visit from Deacons/Care Coordinators, Elders or Rev. Bill Peake, and communicate prayer requests to Amy for addition to the prayer chain.

Congregational engagement and renewal opportunities during Fall include the ongoing First Sunday Soul Feast Discussions, gathering recipes and stories for a church-wide cookbook (watch for information in the September newsletter), October 8th catered Italian lunch while Pastor April and her family are in Italy, a baker coming to Trinity to instruct on making bread both for individual consumption and pastor's communion bread to be stored in the freezer, and a catered return lunch after worship on Sunday, November 12th.

This time of renewal will benefit both your pastor and you, the congregation. It is with deep gratitude and trust in the Holy Spirit that we are called to deepen our relationship to God and embrace this time of renewal.

Please take a moment to RSVP for both of Pastor April's congregational meals: a catered Italian meal and a welcome back meal. Both meals are a part of Pastor April's awarded Clergy Renewal Grant. There are sign up forms on clipboards in the church office, or you may also contact the church office to RSVP.



Please RSVP
by Thursday,
9/28!

An Italian Meal
While Pastor April
& Her Family Tour Italy!
Join Trinity for an
Italian Lunch on
SUN, 10/8, 11:30am





**Pastor April's
Welcome Back Meal**
SUN, 11/12, 11:30AM

Please
RSVP
by Thursday,
Nov. 2nd!

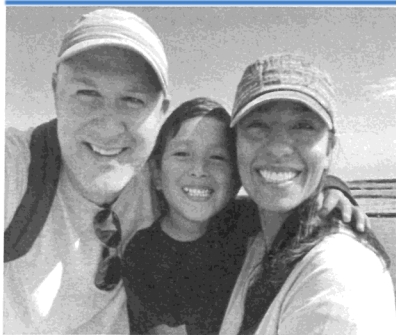
Please RSVP!



MISSION CONNECTIONS

A program of Presbyterian World Mission • pcusa.org/missionconnections

SUMMER 2023



Bursting Bubbles, Seeing Love

**Jed and Jenny
Koball**
*Mission co-workers
serving in Peru*

Dear friends,

“I lived in a bubble created by the church where only God could take action in this world, and all I could do was pray for others.” Andrea Peña’s reflection on her youth and the immense social challenges she has witnessed in her life while growing up in Lima is a perception held by many young people raised in the church here in Peru.

It is a perception that starkly contrasts with those of many young adults from the United States who have come here to Peru to serve as Young Adult Volunteers. From far away they come with big hearts, open minds and deep desires to make a difference in a part of the world they barely know or understand. Despite their unknowing, they come with the belief that God can use them in the service of their neighbors and all of creation. They come from a very different bubble.

When I became the coordinator of the Young Adult Volunteer program in Peru 10 years ago, I embraced the role I would play in accompanying 20-something-year-olds from the U.S. in making an impact in the communities they would serve in my country while also helping grow their understanding of the world and their place in it. I felt such privilege to see up close the miraculous work that God does in and through such faithful young people. And I felt great pride that God would call me—a Peruvian!—to play such a role.

But I confess: as the years went by, and I saw the positive impact that this program has on young adults from the United States, I also felt jealous. Why can’t the young people of my country today—the very place where folks from the U.S. come to serve—also have the opportunity to let God work through them and to re-shape them? Why can’t we as a church create more equitable and just

opportunities for mutual growth and bursting of bubbles?

Three years ago, when the pandemic hit and the YAVs from the U.S. were evacuated home and the doors to Peru were closed, another door opened. Amidst the immense loss and suffering experienced throughout the country over the ensuing months, a recurring refrain came to me from global partners throughout Peru: when will the YAVs return?

What was being expressed through their question was a longing for accompaniment and connection. It was in many ways a validation of the program itself, that in the midst of such uncertain times our partners longed for the presence of caring and compassionate young people - not because they would be able to resolve the overwhelming problems being faced by Peruvians, but because they would be a sure and present reminder from God that the people who walk in darkness do not walk alone.

If there is one thing that the YAV program does exceptionally well it is walking with others in their times of trial and tribulation. I knew then that despite the health risks, economic challenges and travel bans that the program must find a way to continue. And so, I responded to the partners, “what about Peruvian YAVs?” And just like that an opportunity was born.



Jenny welcomes YAVs from the United States for the 2017-2018 YAV year in Peru, and looks forward to bringing back YAVs from the U.S. to Peru in the near future.

(Continued on next page)

Despite travel restrictions and an extremely limited budget, together with global partners, we sought out young adults in the church in Peru who were merely waiting for the nudge and invitation to serve in ways they had never imagined. Andrea was one such young adult who remarked on her year of service, “thanks to my experience with the YAV program, I have been able to take off the blindfold and see the world as it is.”

Of course, the YAV program is more than just an opportunity to bring young adults out of their bubbles and remove their blindfolds. It is also an opportunity to construct with them new lenses for seeing and understanding the interconnected world in which we live. Through orientation, retreats and workshops that we offer throughout the year on themes such as systemic poverty, structural racism, welcome and inclusion, the YAV program brings a framework for helping take responsible and prayerful action in the face of suffering, oppression and injustice.

“The workshops that the YAV program offered me,” says Andrea, “made me see the reality of our country and the world. Now I am more aware of the repercussions that our actions can cause and so I intentionally try to talk to my friends and community about what I’ve learned through my experience and how we as young people have a very important role in our society.”



Andrea Pena (second from left) accompanies partners at the Red Uniendo Manos Peru during her year of service as a UAV in 2021-2022.



Jenny (upper right) and Cecilia Ramirez (upper left), a global partner from Peru, lead a workshop with current Peruvian YAVs, Yuriko Beltran and Kirei Salas, on the issue of systemic racism in Peru.

Today the doors to Peru are once again open. We look forward to welcoming back young adults from the United States in the near future. We also look forward to continuing to invite Peruvian young adults to serve alongside them. And we wonder and scheme about how many more bubbles we can burst: what would it look like to have Peruvian young adults serve outside Peru in other countries where there are YAV sites? What would it look like to receive in Peru young adults from other countries besides the United States? What growth and learning and service and justice might God make real when we open the doors to service for all of God’s children?

We invite you to dream together with us! And we thank you for your continued prayers, words, actions and generosity that help make such dreams come true!

**In the Spirit we share,
Jenny and Jed**

August Meetings:

Deacons: 8/3 & 8/8, 9AM

Committees Meet: 8/10, 6 & 7PM

Session Meets: 8/24, 7PM

Volunteers Needed - Final Refugee Speaker, #4

Trinity is looking for individuals to help host our refugee speaker on Wednesday evening, 8/23. The speaking event is from 7:00-8:30pm (shift: 6:30-8:30pm).

8/6 - First Sunday Soul

Feast - Discuss Sunday scripture with your peers after worship on the first Sunday each month (meets in Fellowship hall).

8/20-Praise on the Patio

Bring a lawn chair and worship outdoors (in-person only/no Youtube streaming).

Welcomers Needed: SEP-

OCT while Pastor April is away on sabbatical, welcomers needed.

Jane Williams & Ross Anderson Invite You!

Jane & Ross invite you to witness their marriage vows immediately following the Sunday, 8/20 Praise on the Patio worship service. Afterward, please join them for cake & lemonade in the fellowship Hall. No gifts/cards please.

After Church Lunch Outing

On SUN, 8/20, let’s get to know each other better. Each 3rd SUN monthly, let’s do lunch! Meet Brad W. in the narthex at 11AM.



August Birthdays

Luann A.
Ajang E.
Katie F.
Stephanie H.
Hycent K.
Maurine M.
Samuel M.

Phil S.
Neal S.
Dennis S.
Silva T.
Katharine U.
Jane Wasiluk