



PATHWAYS

JANUARY 2024

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



WORSHIP SERVICES
10 AM

JAN 7

Baptism of the Lord Epiphany - Star Words & Communion Sunday
(In person & YouTube)
11AM-FSSF

JAN 14

2nd Sunday after Epiphany
(In person & YouTube)

JAN 21

3rd Sunday after Epiphany
(In person & YouTube)
11 AM - ACLO

JAN 28

4th Sunday after Epiphany
Caring & Sharing Service
(Fellowship Hall)
(In person only, no YouTube)

Congregational Meeting
Sunday, February 11th
(after the worship service)

On 11/28, Speaker Rev. Josh Heikkila Spoke of the Joys and the Challenges of Missions in West Africa



Rev. Josh Heikkila

Josh Heikkila spoke in Trinity's fellowship hall on the evening of Tue., 11/28 from 7-8:30pm. He shared pictures and videos of the beauty, joy, and challenges of life in West Africa, as seen through the ministry and mission that the Presbyterian Church USA undertakes with partner Presbyterian denominations in West Africa.

Rev. Josh Heikkila is PC(USA)'s regional liaison for West Africa. Appointed as a PC(USA) mission co-worker in October 2009, he facilitates



and supports the programs, relationships and activities PC(USA) has with

partners in the region. He also provides support to other PC(USA) mission personnel and helps connect partner churches with PC(USA) congregations that want to be involved in ministry and mission together. Josh was raised in New Jersey and worked at churches in Chicago and St Paul, Minnesota before being sent to Ghana in 2009 by Presbyterian World Mission.



Afterward there was desserts with open discussion. Josh presented Pastor April with a stole that evening (photo at left).

April Davis Campbell
Nov 28

Thank you Joshua Heikkila for this stunning stole at Trinity Presbyterian Church of Woodbury MN

Opportunity - Trinity Audio/Video Techs

Volunteers are being sought to help with Sunday morning audio/video tech. Trinity would like to recruit 2 or more people in an effort to limit these duties to only one Sunday per month per person. Tech training is available. Please contact Dan Freeman or Jay Wilkinson for more details or to volunteer.

New Members Sunday, 12/3

Trinity welcomed Ross Anderson and Althea Hofer into official membership on Sunday, December 3rd during the worship service. Afterward, a new member reception was celebrated with cake and refreshments. Trinity is excited to announce this addition to our church family. Trinity warmly welcomes you Ross and Althea!



Happy 2024 New Year

Upcoming Events

Happy New Year and Welcome to 2024!



1/1/2024 - Pledge Cards

If you have not yet done so, please return your 2024 pledge cards to Trinity to allow for planning of the 2024 calendar year. If preferred, you may opt to send an email to the office with your yearly pledge. Thank you!

1/7 - FSSF, First Sunday Soul Feast

On Sunday, 1/7, the FSSF discussion group will discuss Moses in the continuing study of figures from the Old Testament. Leaders are needed for upcoming discussions and discussion guides are provided. Coming soon: NT Figures of the Bible.



Epiphany Star Words

Sunday, 1/7, Epiphany/Baptism of Our Lord. Epiphany Star Words will be distributed. Please see

page 4 for more information.



1/10, Ladies' LUNCH BUNCH GATHERING

All women of Trinity are invited to join us for lunch on

Wednesday, January 10th, 2024, at Andiamo in Woodbury, 11:30AM. An RSVP is required by

Tuesday, January 2nd, to Jane Williams or Susan Rooney (see church directory). Can't attend in January? No problem! We will continue to meet in Woodbury at a variety of locations on the second Wednesday of each month at 11:30am. We hope you can join us! -Jane & Susan



Men's Breakfast - Sat. 1/16 & 1/20, 8-9:30am

You're invited to fellowship and food! Meet in Trinity's fellowship hall on the first and third Satur-

days of each month. Please contact Tom Rooney if you have questions or would like more information.



ACLO - Lunch Outing

Let's get to know each other better with lunch outings! All are welcome to attend on the 3rd Sunday each month. Together, we will decide on a reasonable location to gather. Brad W. will not be available this month 1/21, so if you are interested in leading the group to gather, please contact the office.



Caring & Sharing Service on

SUN, 1/28. Caring & Sharing services meet in Trinity's fellowship hall to celebrate fellowship together and partake in a special activity and/or discussion. C&S worship services are person worship only.



2/11 Congregational Mtg.

Join Trinity for the annual Congregational Meeting immediately following the worship service on Sun., 2/11, in the sanctuary.



Next Game night: FRI

1/12, 7pm - Join your Trinity friends for Game Night FUN! Game night is generally the 2nd Friday of the

month (unless otherwise announced). If you have a favorite game, suggest it or simply bring it along to the gathering! Location: Freeman home. Please note: Covid-19 vaccination required. Please contact Brad Wright with any questions.

January Church Meetings:

CCMT (Deacons): Tue., January 9th, 9am.

Committees: Thur., January 11th, 6PM & 7PM

Session: Thur., January 25th, 7PM.



January Birthdays at Trinity

Anna A.
Dorise K.
Bill S.
Don B.
Danielle M.

Jim C.
Emilia E.
Jane W.
Carol B.
Adeline F.

Virginia C.
Glenn R.
Scott V.
Sam F.
John J.



Clerk's Corner

Jay Wilkinson, Clerk of Session

As we have reached the end of another calendar year, your Session has been quite active. There are those activities that are obvious, such as the Generosity Pledge Drive that has recently been completed (I know, none of us like to be asked for donations, but that's the only way we must provide for the mission and ministry of Trinity Church.) The Covid Pandemic and its aftermath have not been kind to nonprofits in general, and this is true for Trinity. During the time we had only online worship services, some of our members drifted away and have not returned. "Recruiting" new members is a difficult task especially in our society that often downplays religion.

Another activity that isn't as visible to all is the development of a budget for the upcoming year based on the results of the pledges received from members. Based on some rising costs and stagnant or decreasing income projections, our first draft of the 2024 budget showed a deficit of over \$40,000. Trinity doesn't have large reserves from past year surpluses that we can carry a deficit like that. With some penny pinching, the second draft budget with a deficit of about \$34,000 (still unacceptable). We decided to table that discussion until January. Then, unexpectedly, we received word of an unexpected, planned donation that will help us pay off the mortgage on the church building early in 2024 and appears to wipe out our deficit for 2024. (Our mortgage expense in the draft budget is a little over \$52,000 for the year.) Hallelujah!

Another hidden activity of a Session committee is maintaining our building and the grounds. As our building ages, it is getting more expensive to maintain. This past summer we replaced the flooring in the sanctuary. We are in the process now of replacing the lighting in the parking lot. We are hoping to rebuild the aging parking lot in 2024 because any further delay will make the project much more expensive. We need to complete the replacement of the building siding. And we know that the furnaces and air conditioning units will need to be replaced before long (I think I was told we have 8 HVAC units in our building!) All these projects will need assistance from the congregation and possible new loans to complete. (At this point our Jewish friends would use the term Oy Vey!)

There are many other activities of your Session, some of which are visible to all and many that are not. We need the assistance of every member. Please keep in mind that there is a lot more to being a faithful member than just attending weekly worship services (although that is #1, of course!).

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! Also, when the Nominating Committee seeks dedicated, imaginative leaders to serve on the Session, we hope that you will give serious consideration to serving in this manner. You can even suggest your own name to the committee. (Hint: Don Breckle is the chair of the committee. Get to know him!)

Jay Wilkinson, Clerk of Session

Trinity Presbyterian Program Financial Summary			Thru month of	OCT.
	Month Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Total Program Donations	\$20,495.88	\$205,477.90	\$210,106.97	\$252,128.37
Total Program Expenditures	\$22,798.46	\$228,749.16	\$233,330.64	\$279,942.42
Donations Less Expenses	(\$2,302.58)	(\$23,271.26)	(\$23,223.67)	(\$27,814.05)
Checking Roll Forward Add	\$1,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$12,000.00
Income Less Expenses	(\$1,302.58)	(\$13,271.26)	(\$13,223.67)	(\$15,814.05)
Program Mortgage Expense	\$4,344.90	\$43,449.00		
Mortgage Principal Paid	\$3,951.18	\$38,892.51		
Mortgage Interest Paid	\$393.72	\$4,556.49		
Mortgage Balance	\$114,244.25			
			Actual program donations for 2023 thru November: \$224,666 Budgeted program donations through the month: \$231,117 Difference: (\$6,451) Program donations w/JAN large donations prorated for 2023 thru NOV. : \$223,166 Budgeted program donations through the month: \$231,117 Difference: (\$7,951)	



1/7 - Epiphany Star Words

During worship on, Sun., 1/7 for Epiphany, Trinity will share an activity called Epiphany Star Words. What are Star Words? The use of star words, also called “star gifts,” is a prayer practice connected to Epiphany and the new year that has been growing in popularity in Protestant churches for nearly a decade now. The idea is that a list of intention words, or guiding words, are written or printed on paper stars. At some point during your

Epiphany service, individuals are invited to draw a word from the basket, and to use that word as a guiding word throughout the year. Typically, participants are encouraged to trust the word they have drawn, and not to replace the word. However, there is not a strong need to be the “star police” if an individual wants to trade. Individuals are often encouraged to place their star word somewhere they will see it regularly throughout the year to allow consistent reflection on how God has moved through, around, or in connection to that word. If you feel led, start a Star Word journal. As you pray and contemplate your word, note your experiences. A future opportunity to share your story will be offered.



You're Invited - Trinity's Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held in the sanctuary on Sunday, February 11th immediately following the worship service. This is the annual meeting of the congregation for the purpose of receiving annual reports from the Session and church organizations, including financial reports, and to transact any and all business that may properly come before it including voting on the terms of call for Rev. Dr. April M. Davis Campbell. This meeting is in person only. There will be no YouTube.

HAPPY NEW YEAR to our TRINITY FAMILY!



If you have not yet done so, please mail or drop off 2024 pledges of giving.

You may also elect to email or call the church with your pledges.

Thank You

Trinity Presbyterian Church
Where God's Love Welcomes All!

Name/s: _____

Yes, I/we intend to support the work and ministry of Trinity Presbyterian Church during 2024.

My/our pledge is \$ _____ per week \$ _____ per month \$ _____ annually

My/our email address is: _____

Note: Per Capita Apportionment that Trinity pays to the Presbytery in 2024 is \$38.50 per member.

At Church: _____ By Mail: 2125 Tower Drive Woodbury, MN 55125 By email: admin@trinitywoodbury.org

Drop in the Offering Plate or in the office

Check this box if you would like information about payment via authorized payment from your bank account. Giving is also available via cash, check, or via text. If at least 70%, you may be able to give from an IRA.

Thank you! Your gift may be tax deductible depending on your tax situation.

