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TRINITY  
PRESBYTERIAN

# JAN Tidings

Why are we here?





# Why Are We Here?

Happy New Year! As we prepare for a new year as God's Church, now seems the appropriate time to take a moment and answer that persistent existential question, "Why are we here?" There are many, many reasons why the Church is the right place to be in our world today; but perhaps the best, and most direct and concise statement of our purpose as followers of Jesus Christ is found in the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church, USA. This statement is part of the FOUNDATIONS of Presbyterian Polity, (F-1.0304), and is entitled, "The Great Ends of the Church." In other words, this is one of the main building blocks of what we believe about God's work through the Church and through each one of us.

## The Great Ends of the Church

*The great ends of the Church are: the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; And the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.*

I am a big fan of this declaration. It is brave and bold and it invites us to be active in our engagement with our hurting world. Let's join in making a resolution to seek to live out these claims in the year ahead. Have a Happy and Effective 2023!!!

*Mark*

## January Birthdays

**1** Myrl Jean Hughes  
Blane Stephens

**2** Denise Slaughter

**3** Sierrah Haskins  
Lucy Burnham

**4** Landen Gailey  
Ruth Mills  
Rebecca Palmer

**5** Diocles Wells

**7** Clarence Poole  
Karen Andrew

**8** David Gilbert

**10** Ray Dearborn

**11** Mark Slaughter

**12** Barbara Docherty  
Dave Morrison

**13** River Keefer  
Nancy Ksiner

**14** Kathryn Forsythe  
Eric McAnallen

**16** Ashley Collins

**18** Cindy Ann Bowers

**20** Ann Fennell

**21** Sara Noegel

**22** Jeanne McCune

**23** Evans Thibodeau  
James Tolleson  
Conrad Shannon

**26** Blake Wright

**27** Sabrina Poms

**28** Mary Haskins

**30** Lin Carlson

**31** Fritz Becker  
Marty Zigovsky

## February Preview

**1** Kate Vining

**3** Jack Caylor

**5** Jessica Castorman  
Bob Koopman

**6** Sue Osterberg

## letter from the associate pastor...

Since last year, I've been sharing a series in this space on what it means to be a PC(USA) Presbyterian, and why it matters. Over the course of several months last fall, we examined the dense, highly orthodox, systematic, and somewhat problematic Protestant Reformation-era documents in the PC (USA)'s constitution, *The Book of Confessions*. This month, let's leave the Reformation behind and jump ahead to the twentieth century, where the first document we encounter is the brief but deeply moving Theological Declaration of Barmen.

Unlike the earlier creeds and confessions, which attempt to cover the full breadth of Christian teachings and belief, the Barmen Declaration was written in a very specific time and place for a very specific purpose: Written in 1934 by a group of church leaders in Germany, it was meant to help Christians withstand the challenges of the Nazi party and of the so-called "German Christians," a popular movement that saw no conflict between Christianity and the ideals of Hitler's National Socialism.

The introduction to the Barmen Declaration in *The Book of Confessions* reads in part,

Most Germans took the union of Christianity, nationalism, and militarism for granted, and patriotic sentiments were equated with Christian truth. The German Christians exalted the racially pure nation and the rule of Hitler as God's will for the German people.

Nonetheless, some in the churches resisted. Among those few determined church leaders who did oppose the church's captivity to National Socialism were pastors Hans Asmussen, Karl Koch, Karl Iraruer, and Martin Niemoller, and theologian Karl Barth.

Next month, we'll examine the text of the Barmen Declaration and its courageous refusal to bow down before Hitler.

Peace,

*Dwight*

# WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

**Dinners at 5:30**

**Presentations at 6:30**

*Please sign up by Monday before the event by 9 A.M. so we can order enough food for everyone!*

*Also, due to increased cost of food, dinners will be \$10 per person, \$20 max per family. Thank you for your understanding.*

**January 11**

**Hospice, Palliative Care, and Beyond-Everything you DON'T Know** - Join Four Seasons and Maureen Williams, Director of Care Navigation, to discover all that Four Seasons can offer you, your friends, and your family throughout the aging process. Come ready to learn, discover new ideas, and ask questions!

**January 25**

*"Please join me for **Wednesday Night Live - A Trip to the Holy Land**. I would love to share my experience with you of my trip to the Holy Land. I wish to express my sincere gratitude for all the encouraging words, prayers and financial support that you gave me. It was a trip of a lifetime!"*  
- Sally Hetland Beghtol

# session notes:

Session held its stated meeting in person on December 12. Rev. Mark Stanley called the meeting to order at 6:33pm, and declared a quorum present. Diane Bowers shared a devotion on Advent and then Mark led us in an opening prayer.

Session noted with sorrow the passing of Betsy Mixner on December 6, 2022, and with joy the baptisms of Alyza Jean and Aayleah Raelynn Stanfield on November 27, 2022.

Tom Karvonen presented the budget to Session. The proposed budget has a shortfall of \$36,325, which will be balanced by the Ministries Fund. The pastors excused themselves to allow Session to discuss clergy and staff salaries. Steve Culp reviewed the Endowment fund income available to the ministries. The budget will be presented to Session for approval at the January Stated Session meeting.

Duane Johnson shared with Session the policy proposed by the Technology Committee for use of the new security system. Session unanimously approved the policy, which sets parameters for the use of the new security system and access to the video record produced by the system cameras. Duane also noted that the technology committee will be working to enable people who would like to participate in remote worship but need help to do so.

Mark acknowledged Elders Jim Smelker, Fitz Sthreshley, and Molly Garnett, who are each rotating off Session at the end of the year. Mark then welcomed incoming elders Angela Kuykendoll, Barry Stokes, and Enrique Sanchez. Each shared their faith journey, following which Mark asked each the constitutional questions. All replied affirmatively, and Session welcomed them joyously.

Enrique Sanchez shared a report from the Earth Caring Ministry, on the process for becoming an Earth Care Congregation, and Session unani-



**THE STANFIELD FAMILY WITH ALYZA AND AALEAH**

mously approved proceeding with our application for Trinity Presbyterian Church to become a PC(USA) Earth Care Congregation by affirming the Earth Care Pledge.

The date for the Annual Meeting was set for January 29, 2023, at 11:00am, to follow a single 10:00am service. January 15 was set as the date for a Congregational Meeting, to be held at the beginning of the 11am service, for the purpose of hearing the report of the Nominating Ministry, which presents Bud Weeks as elder nominee for an unexpired term.

Rev. Dwight Christenbury closed with prayer at 8:43pm.

Session's next stated meeting will be January 9, at 6:30pm, in the Trinity Room

Peace be with you,

*Kathryn Forsythe* Clerk of Session

## New Library Resources to Interest You

The Trinity Book Club donated two books in memory of Barbara Garrison.

- *Everyday Contemplative: The Way of Prayerful Living* (9/OWE) by L. Roger Owens
- *The Mindful Grandparent: The Art of Loving Our Children's Children* (9/SHO) by Shirley Showalter.

In honor of Edie Clarke's 90th birthday the following have been donated:

- *The Coat* (A/SEV) by Vidal Severine (a children's book)
- *Essential Carols: The Very Best of King's College Choir* (CD/14/ESS)
- *Searching for the Historical Jesus* (DVD/5/SEA) from The Teaching Company
- *Songs of Angels: Christmas Hymns and Carols* (CD/14/SON) directed by Robert Shaw
- *Stories of My Life* (32/PAT) by Katherine Paterson.

The following are gift books from members:

- *Encouragement for Life: Words of Hope and Inspiration* (9/SWI) by Charles Swindell
- *Help: I'm Alone: Trusting God in Times of Loneliness* (9/MEY) by Joyce Meyer
- *Love Like That: Five Relationship Secrets from Jesus* (9/PAR) by Les Paviett
- *Will the Real Me Please Stand Up* (6/POW) by John Powell and Loretta Brady

The library has purchased the following books:

- *The Green Amendment: The People's Fight for a Clean, Safe, and Healthy Environment* (25/VAN) by Maya K. van Rossum
- *The Night is Long but Light Comes in the Morning: Meditations for Racial Healing* (8/MEE) by Catherine Meeks
- *The Power of Positivity: The ABC's of a Pandemic* (A/MAI) by Ruth Maille (children's book)
- *Women and the Gender of God* (7/PEE) by Amy Peeler



**BOOKISH LADIES ABOVE: BARBARA GARRISON AND EDIE CLARK**

*Jane Presseau*

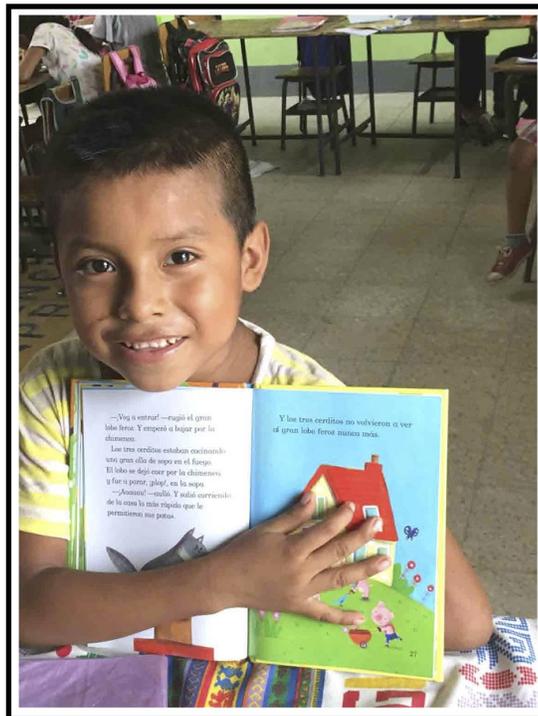
# Global Missions

## OUR GUATEMALA PARTNERSHIP

### SCHOLARSHIP FUND

A significant part of our commitment to the partnership with Fuente de Vida in Guatemala is the Scholarship Program. This program primarily benefits children, but there are some adults who also benefit as they pursue college degrees or theology studies. Even though education is provided by the government through high school, there are costs incurred by the families for uniforms, books, supplies and other incidentals. For many families even these modest costs would mean that the children would not be able to attend school. Through the partnership's scholarship program, we are seeing many more children finish school who otherwise would not have that opportunity. This has made a significant difference in their lives and the lives of their families. The scholarships have been particularly important because the COVID situation in Guatemala has been much worse than here in the United States. As a result the children have faced many challenges in their educational experience.

In the current school year eleven students receiving scholarships in elementary school, six in middle school, four in high school, and two in theological education. Also this year Trinity provided gifts for two girls who have graduated from high school. In addition we made a



donation to the General Education Fund to provide some funding for scholarships at churches who do not have an active partnership with a church in the U.S. In total our expenditure for these educational programs in 2022 was \$9,628.

Funding for the Scholarship Program comes from a combination of direct gifts to the Guatemala Scholarship Fund, the Global Mission Budget, and Endowment Funds.

### PASTORAL CARE

Fuente de Vida is a small church in a relatively poor part of Guatemala. As such, they are not able to afford a full-time pastor. The Sur Presbytery appoints a pastor to visit the church for one weekend per month. During 2022 the church has been served by Pastor Geovanny Teruel. We learned that Pastor Teruel was willing and able to provide pastoral care to the people of Fuente de Vida for two weekends per month if funding could be arranged. Trinity's Global Mission Ministry was quick to provide the necessary funding, and as a result there has been a doubling of the amount of time a pastor is at Fuente de Vida. Pastor Teruel has done much for the spiritual life of the church, has increased emphasis on children's programs, and has helped improve the church administration.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters at Fuente de Vida as they deal with the many challenges of life in Guatemala.

*Duane Johnson*

### You're welcome to be part of a Ministry!

At Trinity, we believe all God's children are gifted for ministry. We invite you to be active in the church... doing things you enjoy... sharing your time and talents and interests... getting to know new people... using your gifts as Christ's hands to grow in love for yourself and your church and community.

Opportunities exist in the ministry areas listed below and in many other areas in the church. Please ask anyone and let us know what calls to you.

If you cannot volunteer, please know that your worship and your prayers for Trinity, the Church, and the world are welcomed and valued. You are loved!



## Adult/Youth Learning Hour Elective

**SEARCHING FOR THE HISTORICAL JESUS, PART 1  
Begins January 8  
Sundays at 9:45 a.m.**

You're invited to join us for a special Learning Hour Elective, a video-discussion series featuring the biblical Scholar Jean-Pierre Isbouts called *Searching for the Historical Jesus*. Consisting of fifteen lessons all together, we will explore the first five of them, dealing with the historical context and Jesus's family and early life, in part 1 of this series:

**January 8.** Introduction:  
Who was "the historical Jesus"?

**January 15.** Setting the Scene:  
Rome and Herod the Great

**January 22.** Jesus's Parents:  
Mary and Joseph in Galilee

**February 5.** The Birth of Jesus

**February 12:** Jesus's Early Years:  
Growing Up in Galilee

Each session will begin with a viewing of a 25-minute video featuring Dr. Isbouts, followed by group discussion. (Note that class will not meet on January 29, as we will hold a 10:00 a.m. worship service followed by the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on that day.)



Jean-Pierre Isbouts is a historian, biblical scholar, and best-selling author. After earning his DLitt at Leiden University, he served as a member of the doctoral faculty at Fielding Graduate University for more than 15 years and now holds the title of Faculty Emeritus. He gained worldwide renown with his National Geographic book *The Biblical World* and also wrote *Archaeology of the Bible*, *In the Footsteps of Jesus*, and *Young Jesus*.

Parts 2 and 3 of *Searching for the Historical Jesus*, coming later this year, will explore Jesus's ministry, his arrest and crucifixion, and the early years of the Christian church.

Please join us!

*Dwight Christenbury*

## November Financial Update

November was a very positive month for us. **Income** was the highest of the year. Our deficit for the year has been trimmed to \$16,000.

Our **pledge receipts** including some “over and above” donations were \$51,700, making our YTD number \$5,600 above last year.

**Plate/Unpledged receipts** remain strong at \$19,500 above budget estimates.

We have begun renting a former preschool room to a non-profit for \$400 per month.

**Expenses** were under budget in November and remain positive to budget for the year. All ministries are under spending their budgets. They are running \$24,000 above 2021 due to our being back to full operations post-COVID this year.

The **2023 Budget** work continues. Finance/Stewardship and Session have met again. Ministry requests have been reduced and more reductions are possible as we wait for additional pledge cards prior to the budget being finalized.

The balance in our Capital accounts is \$48,000. We may need to replace an HVAC unit in the near future.

*Tom Karvonen*  
Treasurer

*Diane Bowers*  
Chair of Finance



**CAROLYN ERICKSON, LOIS ERICKSON, BECKY PALMER--RETIRING MONDAY MORNING TELLERS AFTER MORE THAN 35 YEARS OF SERVICE! THE MONDAY MORNING CREW WITH THE RETIREES (NOT PICTURED FITZ STHRESLEY)**

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) 692-6114  
trinitypresbyterianpcusa@gn  
Jim Kisner: 828-606-0674  
kisnerjb@morrisbb.net  
Stephen Klein: (828) 696-992  
klein-s@att.net

**Trinity**  
is here  
to support you  
Please reach out!

## Earth Care Ministry

### CREATION CARE ALLIANCE RETREAT

**After a break due to the pandemic, our winter retreat and symposium are back! We're so excited to gather on February 6th and 7th in Black Mountain at Montreat Conference Center.** This time is designed with creation care professionals, volunteers, lay leaders, and clergy in mind. Whether you're new to creation care or a long-time advocate, we hope you'll join us!

**The clergy retreat will begin on Monday, February 6th, with workshops designed specifically for clergy and faith leaders.** This portion will run from 1:00 pm – 5:30 pm and will include presentations from our keynote speaker specifically tailored to how congregations can create more climate-resilient communities and practice climate hospitality. There will also be time for those gathered to converse, build relationships, share their experiences, and learn from each other.

**We will open the symposium on Tuesday, February 7th, to all creation care advocates and leaders.** Workshops that day will run from 8:30 am – 5:30 pm. We will also hear from our keynote speaker regarding climate resilience and hospitality and have time to discuss our learnings through community conversation with an eye toward praxis.

**Finally, we're pleased to announce that our keynote speaker will be Avery Davis Lamb, Co-Director of Creation Justice Ministries!** Avery is a theologian and activist with a breadth of experience aiding faith communities as they take action for the sake of creation.

**We hope you and your congregation will join us in February and we're so grateful for the chance to do this work alongside you. Please register today!** Our last in-person retreat and symposium sold out, so we encourage you to register early to ensure you can attend. *Early bird registration closes on December 9th, 2022. Registration will close entirely on Monday, January 30th.* Group discounts, student discounts, and scholarships are available.

[LEARN MORE & REGISTER HERE](#)

## TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE!

The Trinity Technology Committee has been working on ways to use technology to enhance the worship and administration of the church. Among the things that have been done is the livestreaming worship services and the use of Zoom for holding meetings. During the COVID pandemic we began to use these capabilities because we were unable to conduct worship and hold meetings on a face-to-face basis. We learned that there are many benefits from using these technologies even after the worst of the pandemic was behind us. For example, we know that there are those who would like to attend worship services, but who are unable to come to the church for reasons such as location or physical limitations. Similarly with meetings, many people find it more convenient to meet electronically than in person. There are also hybrid meetings where some of the attendees come to the church, but others attend from remote locations.

The Technology Committee is concerned that there may be some Trinity members who would like to take advantage of the worship livestreams or Zoom meetings, but do not have the technical ability or equipment necessary to do so. If that sounds like your situation, the members of the Technology Committee would like to hear from you. They are prepared to meet with you in order to help you overcome these limitations.

**If you would like to talk with a member of the Technology Committee about getting some assistance with your technology needs, please contact:**

**Duane Johnson at 828-435-1610.**



**JIM KISNER DECORATING; DIANE SWIFT & BOB MILES; CHRISMON ORNAMENTS BY KATIE HANKLA & BECKY PALMER**



**JULIE CARTER; FLORA HOBSON; TRINITY'S CUB SCOUT TROUP ON SCOUT SUNDAY**



**BUD WEEKS & STEVE CULP WITH THE MITTEN TREE, PAJAMA TEDDY BEARS MADE BY DEBBIE GREEN IN MEMORY OF THOMMY SNEAD; MARGARET BOLICK**



**MARGUERITE MURPHY; DWIGHT CHRISTENBURY; TOM KARVONEN, RUSS RUSSELL, & DWIGHT ON DECORATING DAY**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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**1 - COMMUNION**  
**8:30 Worship**  
 10:30 Choir Rehearsal  
**11:00 Worship**

**2 - OFFICE CLOSED**  
 9:00 Finance Team  
 2:00 PW Coordinating  
 3:15 Beginning Tai Chi  
 4:00 Intermediate Tai Chi

**3**  
 9:00 Staff Meeting  
 10:00 Coffee Group

**4**  
 10:30 Friends in Christ  
 1:00 Spanish Class  
 7:30 Choir Rehearsal

**5**  
 11:00 Zoom BTL Book Grp.  
 1:00 Tech Committee Mtg.  
 1:30 AA Ladies  
 2:00 Zoom: Endowment  
 3:15 Beginning Tai Chi  
 4:00 Intermediate Tai  
 4:00 Zoom: Finance  
 6:30 Cub Scouts

**6 - EPIPHANY**  
 8:00 Toastmasters

**7**

**8 - INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**  
**8:30 Worship**  
 9:45 Deacons Examination  
 9:45 Learning Hour  
 10:30 Choir Rehearsal  
**11:00 Worship**  
 5:00 ManKind Project

**9**  
 9:00 Finance Team  
 10:00 New Member Sub.  
 3:15 Beginning Tai Chi  
 4:00 Intermediate Tai Chi  
 5:30 Zoom: Local Missions  
 6:30 Zoom: Session Mtg

**10**  
 9:00 Staff Meeting  
 10:00 Coffee Group  
 3:00 Origami Group  
 3:30 Deacons Mtg.

**11**  
 9:30 Esther Circle  
 10:30 Friends in Christ  
 1:00 Spanish Class  
 4:00 Global Missions  
 5:30 WNL Dinner  
 6:30 WNL: Hospice  
 7:30 Choir Rehearsal

**12**  
 10:00 Musicke Antiqua  
 10:00 Zoom New Member  
 11:00 Zoom BTL Book Grp.  
 1:30 AA Ladies  
 3:15 Beginning Tai Chi  
 4:00 Intermediate Tai .  
 6:30 Cub Scouts

**13**  
 8:00 Toastmasters

**14**  
 9:30 Swing Band Rehearsal

**15 - CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
**8:30 Worship**  
 9:45 Learning Hour  
 10:30 Choir Rehearsal  
**11:00 Worship**  
 12:15 Matthew 25

**16 - MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY**  
 9:00 Finance Team  
 10:00 New Member Sub.  
 3:15 Beginning Tai Chi  
 4:00 Intermediate Tai Chi

**17**  
 9:00 Staff Meeting  
 10:00 Coffee Group  
 10:30 Naomi Circle  
 2:00 Columbarium Service

**18**  
 10:30 Friends in Christ  
 1:00 Spanish Class  
 4:00 Earth Care Ministry  
 7:30 Choir Rehearsal

**19**  
 10:00 Musicke Antiqua  
 11:00 Zoom BTL Book Grp.  
 1:30 AA Ladies  
 3:15 Beginning Tai Chi  
 4:00 Intermediate Tai  
 6:30 Cub Scouts

**20**  
 8:00 Toastmasters  
 4:00 Cub Scout Leaders Appreciation Event  
 4:00 Silent Vigil for Immigration Reform (Historic Courthouse)

**21**

**22**  
**8:30 Worship**  
 9:45 Learning Hour  
 10:30 Choir Rehearsal  
**11:00 Worship**  
 5:00 ManKind Project

**23**  
 9:00 Finance Team  
 10:00 New Member Sub.  
 3:15 Beginning Tai Chi  
 4:00 Intermediate Tai Chi  
 4:00 Death Café

**24**  
 9:00 Staff Meeting  
 10:00 Coffee Group  
 3:00 Origami Group  
 6:30 Deborah Circle  
 6:30 Zoom: Worship Min.

**25**  
 10:30 Friends in Christ  
 1:00 Spanish Class  
 5:30 WNL Dinner  
 6:30 WNL: The Holy Land  
 7:30 Choir Rehearsal

**26**  
 10:00 Musicke Antiqua  
 11:00 Zoom BTL Book Grp.  
 1:30 AA Ladies  
 1:30 Book Group  
 3:15 Beginning Tai Chi  
 4:00 Intermediate Tai  
 6:30 Cub Scouts

**27**  
 8:00 Toastmasters  
 9:30 Swing Band Rehearsal

**28 - WNC PRESBYTERY MEETING**  
 9:30 Swing Band Rehearsal

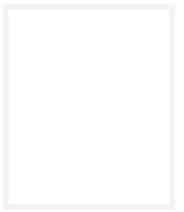
**29 - 5 CENTS A MEAL**  
**10:00 Worship**  
 11:00 Annual Meeting

**30**  
 9:00 Finance Team  
 10:00 New Member Sub.  
 3:15 Beginning Tai Chi  
 4:00 Intermediate Tai Chi

**31**  
 9:00 Staff Meeting  
 10:00 Coffee Group  
 10:00 Luopad Party

ONE SERVICE TODAY  
 AT 10:00 A.M.!!!

January 2023



900 Blythe Street  
Hendersonville, NC 28791  
828.692.6114 office  
828.699.1218 church cell

Rev. Dr. Mark Stanley • Senior Pastor  
Rev. Dwight Christenbury • Associate Pastor  
Sally Beghtol CLP • Minister of Visitation  
Stephen Klein • Organist/Adult Choir Director  
Katie Cilluffo • Office/Graphic Designer  
Jim Kisner • Maintenance  
Sandy Weeks • Photographer

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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!

tidings

to read a poem  
in **january**  
is as lovely as to go for a walk  
in june

Jean-Paul Sartre

