

# FAITH IN ACTION

Trinity Presbyterian Church Newsletter

## From the Pastor's Studio



Yesterday, I did not have any words. The shooting at Mount Tabor High School hit very close to home. Many of us know children who attend there, or have imagined the scenario happening in our children's schools. We lift up the family of the student whose life was taken. And we pray for the teachers, students, parents and staff and for all involved. While there are no words, this spilled out of me while journaling this morning. A simple offering for an impossible time. We will light a candle on Sunday in the name of healing and hope as our community recovers from another incident of meaningless gun violence.

Every once in awhile  
something happens  
which stirs our communal  
consciousness awake.

Yesterday, an active shooter  
entered a local high school  
taking another student's life.  
Now...grief upon grief.

Our shock claims,  
"Unthinkable."

Our pain throws us  
into the arms of strangers.

Our anger screams at legislators  
"Please, something more  
than just thoughts and prayers!"

We are hungry—starving—for a different way.  
For a world where we look out for one another.  
For a world where all our children are safe.

For a world  
where holding onto people matters more than holding onto power.

But then there's this horrible truth:  
Everyday shots fire  
and grief engulfs communities.  
Every day the lives of the  
innocent are taken,  
as mother's wail and weep.

The question isn't why is this happening to us?  
We already know the answer.

The question is and always has been:  
How do we respond?  
In the name of protecting  
our loved ones  
do we lock and load up our belongings?  
fleeing into the white flight of privilege?

Do we lock and load up our teachers  
to be tactically trained soldiers  
in the classroom?

Or do we lock arms and load up  
our collective resources  
of justice, hope, and love

Aimed at transforming  
our communities into  
a weapon of mass  
peace-building construction?

How do we respond?

Jesus says, If we live by the sword,  
we die by the sword.  
and then what more  
could there be for us but

Grief  
upon  
grief.

This Sunday we come to the table.  
bringing our fierce hunger for a different way.  
And we stand together, perhaps with grief,  
perhaps without any words,  
but always in the name of justice, hope, peace, and love.  
amen.

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

### Sunday 9/5 Communion Sunday

Join us on in person or on Facebook Live or Zoom for Worship on Sundays at 11:00a.m. The greeter is Laura Spedding and the worship leader is Catherine Morrissette.

The Zoom link is [here](#).

## Trinity Happenings

### Weekly Sunday worship service on Zoom:

You may access the zoom link for the weekly worship service these ways:

- Click [here](#) for the link.
- Go to the weekly Snapshot email you get on Monday. The link is there.
- It is in the Wednesday Interconnections email,
- Go to our website: [www.trinitypresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.trinitypresbyterianchurch.org) and it is on the home page.

You can also ask Jon, Cabell, Nicole, or someone from the church to forward you the link.

As you can see there are lots of ways to gain access to the service. If you need any help please let Cabell ([tpcmedia@triadbiz.rr.com](mailto:tpcmedia@triadbiz.rr.com)) know.

### Green Team Update

It's time to start a fall garden for those inclined to grow a bit of their own food!

Several plants have been marked for removal from the church grounds. Many are damaged or dying, but many are invasive plants that we do not need to be sharing with the neighborhood.

We are reminded often of the ravages of climate change, and saddened for those affected...floods, wildfires, hurricanes, drought and water shortages, and so many events taking place in our country and worldwide. Prayers to those communities affected.

### Session Members, Committees, and Groups

**Clerk of Session:** Carol Kayler

**Building & Grounds:** John Engle & Michael Hosey

**Church Life:** Under construction

**Community & World Service:**

Carol Kayler & Ron Richwine

**Finance:** Johnnie Midyette

**Personnel Subcommittee:** Donna Hamilton

**Stewardship:** Richard Browne

**Worship and Spiritual Growth:** Cindy Bodenheimer & Brenda Daniels

**Justice Team:** Donna Hamilton

**Environmental Green Team:** Ron Richwine

**Memorial Garden:** Carol Kayler

**Deacons:** Sue Baker, Art Morrissette, Susan Parker, Laura Spedding

## **Justice Team Update**

### **Invitation to Multi-Racial Organizing Effort -- Volunteers Needed!**

Rooted in our Biblical and PC(USA) traditions of accompanying immigrant neighbors, Trinity Presbyterian has supported the Forsyth chapter of the [NC Congress of Latino Organizations](https://www.nccongressoflatinoorganizations.org/) since its inception in 2018. **Now our Latino neighbors are inviting us into deeper relationship and solidarity through a county-wide, multi-racial organizing effort.** We envision the formation of a multi-racial, multi-faith, multi-issue network with the power to address key issues of equity and justice in our County. You can learn more at: <https://bit.ly/Forsyth-IAF-Invitation>.

**Interested institutions are asked to send at least 10 members to an information session on Zoom to learn more about broad-based organizing.** The information session will be offered twice:

- Monday, October 4, 7:00-8:30 pm
- Thursday, October 21, 12:00-1:30 pm

**If you would like to participate, please contact John Senior to sign up at: [seniorje@wfu.edu](mailto:seniorje@wfu.edu).**

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### **Latino Congress Update: Dignified Housing Campaign**

*“They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.” (Isaiah 61:4)*

Racial segregation and decades of disinvestment in communities of color have produced ruins and devastations that we, as people of God, are called to repair. Earlier this year, Latino Congress worked with members & friends of El Buen Pastor church to conduct listening sessions in apartment neighborhoods where they live. We learned of terrible conditions, including dangerous flooding, mold leading to respiratory illness, sewage overflows, lead exposure, and others.

Over 70 residents and allies met with officials from the city’s Community Development Department (CDD) on August 20. Unfortunately, they declined to inspect the apartments, claiming the need for “probable cause” for each unit. CDD also refused to take responsibility for language barriers that prevent residents from submitting successful inspection requests.

Latino Congress is working with residents to help them submit as many formal inspection requests as possible. However, if this does not result in an adequate response, we may need to organize a larger meeting with top City officials. We would need people of faith and conscience to attend & show support as we seek to hold the City accountable to protect our neighbors’ health and safety. Please stay tuned for updates.

Learn more about the housing situation in Old Town and the resident-led organizing process at: <https://bit.ly/OldTownApts>. For more information, contact Megan Gregory at [megan.nciaf@gmail.com](mailto:megan.nciaf@gmail.com) or 847-287-7794.



*Residents & supporters of Yarbrough Ave during a neighborhood organizing meeting*



*Over 70 residents & allies met with the City CDD on August 20, but CDD staff declined to inspect all the apartments*

## TRINITY SUPPORTS

### Support, Advocacy, & Education Groups That Meet at Trinity \*\*

- Tolerance AA Groups: Tuesday and Thursday, 6:00-7:00 p.m., Saturday, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.
- Help and Hope Al-Anon Family Group: Saturdays 5:00-6:00 p.m.
- Disability Advocates: Monday-Thursday by appointment
- Newcomers Club: 4th Tuesday of Each month, 10:00 a.m.

### Local Support Groups

- PFLAG: Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets at Highland Presbyterian Church at 2380 Cloverdale Ave, 4th Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Resource Link: [www.pflagws.org](http://www.pflagws.org); Trinity contact: Johnnie Midyette

## Session Information

- Elders discussed the North Carolina Congress of Latino Organization's (NCCLO) multi-racial organizing effort and whether/how to participate. Five to 15 people from the church would be needed to attend organizing sessions. A relational meeting was scheduled for September 12 after worship for the session to learn more.
- Total income for July was \$5,321.91 under budget but \$1,902.23 over budget for the year. Pledges are expected to be on target for 2021. Expenses were \$1,451.16 under budget for July and \$17,559.22 under budget for the year.
- It was decided to continue with a hybrid worship (in person, over Zoom and Facebook) at least through September, at which time health and safety concerns will be reassessed.
- Preparations are being made for this year's stewardship campaign beginning in October.

The following donations have been made from the Session Benevolence Fund:

\$500 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Haiti relief efforts and for assistance for victims of recent US flooding

\$500 to Church World Service for Afghan refugee assistance

Here are links to these organizations if you would like to contribute to either of these efforts:

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance - <https://pda.pcusa.org/page/active-accounts/>

Church World Service Afghan Refugee Assistance - <https://cwsglobal.org/take-action/afghan-siv-and-refugee-program/>

## COMMUNITY NEEDS

### CRISIS CONTROL MINISTRY

Food/Gift of the Month for September:

Pasta

### BOLTON FOOD PANTRY

Cold cereal (such as Cheerios or corn flakes)

All-Purpose Cleaners

### MOSES BASKET

Receiving Blankets

Socks

Baby Bibs

Washcloths

## Spiritual Growth Update

### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR FALL

Adult Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 12th, at 10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Social distancing and mask wearing are required. During the fall the group will be discussing the lectionary readings that apply to each week, so no book purchase is needed. If you have questions or wish to be added to the distribution list of the lectionary readings, please contact Art Morrissette or Jim Voelker . [jim\\_voelker@yahoo.com](mailto:jim_voelker@yahoo.com)

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Laura Spedding – September 4

Lib Wilson – September 10

Julie Sugg – September 19

Rich Browne – September 19

Tom Hedgecock – September 28

Dan Sheets – September 29

John Engle – September 30

## Message from Trinity's Treasurers

Thanks to all who are continuing to support Trinity, both financially and in other ways, So far, we have been able to meet all of our financial commitments. This is happening by people mailing checks, using bill pay through financial institutions and using Vanco, our online donation system. Please stay safe! We hope to see you all soon!

You may still mail all checks to Trinity Presbyterian Church:

1416 Bolton Street  
Winston-Salem, NC 27103-4798

or you may give online using the link below. Thank you!

<http://www.trinitypresbyterianchurch.org/online-giving/>

### **Our Online Giving Option is Available on Our Website!**

Let's utilize this exciting new option to save time and the hassle of writing a check. You can access the secure online giving page directly on the home page of our website. You can access that option here. Many of you have inquired about fees incurred for this service: Vanco charges Trinity 2.75% + .45 per transaction for all credit/debit card payments. They charge 1% + .45 per transaction for direct debits to checking accounts. There is an option to add a bit to if you would like to help cover these additional charges.

### **Hunger Offering**

Thank you to those who continue to support the hunger offering monthly. If you are interested in donating to this relief initiative please send check to the office, in the memo line note "hunger offering". Baskets will be out the 3rd Sunday of the month.

## Links

**Jon and other guest minister sermons** can be found on our [website](#). Audio and PDF versions are available. The latest worship service from August 29 can be found [here](#).

Also, check out the Salem Presbytery's [Salem Matters](#) online.



Trinity Presbyterian Church is committed to being an open and affirming intergenerational church who, through the gospel of Jesus Christ and with the Spirit, embodies God's love, builds community, and works toward justice.

### **Trinity's Current Office Hours**

Monday: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday: Closed

Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Thursday: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Friday: Closed

### **Trinity's Staff**

Cristy Lynn Brown, Music Director

Anna McRay, Accompanist

Rev. Terri Engle, Director of Spiritual Growth

Sue Baker, Parish Nurse

Nicole Johnson, Office & Finance Coordinator

Cabell Edmundson, Communications Coordinator

Rev. Jonathan Gaska, Pastor

### **Trinity Presbyterian Church**

1416 Bolton Street | Winston-Salem, NC 27103  
336-765-8779 | [www.trinitypresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.trinitypresbyterianchurch.org)