

# Trinity Tidings



JULY 2021

# July



*From the Pastor's Pen*

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Caption: Rev. Olivia Lane (Southminster) and Rev. Stephen Carl (Bartlesville) carry an extra pack from a pastor experiencing altitude sickness. (2021 Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery Backpacking trip)

*If a soldier demands that you carry his gear for a mile, carry it two miles. Give to those who ask, and don't turn away from those who want to borrow. ~Matthew 5:41-42 (NLT)*

In June, I had the great opportunity to travel to the Weminuche Wilderness in Colorado, along with 8 other pastors from the presbytery. For five days, we carried our food and shelter on our backs, along narrow trails and across snow-slick rocks, trusting in God, each other (and especially our guides) to make our way to Mount Hope. Though we had planned and trained for this trip for nearly a year, we were reminded that, ultimately, we must trust in God, because our plans are never sufficient.

On the first day of the trip, we had planned to drive up a steep mountain road to a trailhead that would put us on fairly level ground for the remainder of our trek, but the forest service had closed the road to vehicles due to snowpack at the top. So, we had to walk up the road, carrying our gear along 3 miles – and up over 2500 feet – before getting our trail legs, and without protection from the sun. Because of the steep climb, and rapid elevation changes, two members of our group became sick, and were unable to carry their packs and continue walking up the steep road.

Rather than leave these pastors at the trailhead, which is distinctly against our Christian spirit of unity, we split up as much of their gear among our packs as we could, and then shared the burden of carrying the pack itself, first by carrying its straps, and later by running a pole through and carrying the pole instead. A shared burden is a lighter burden – and this helped those who were ill to have enough energy to keep hiking.

I was reminded of the passage above, wherein Jesus encourages everyone listening to the sermon on the mount to “go the extra mile” when demanded. Now, the circumstances were very different from the ancient world, where soldiers had the right to demand a non-citizen to carry their gear for a mile at a time. Jesus’ words were a form of civil disruption – the soldiers could get in trouble if their packs were carried by the same person for more than a mile, and it showed that the person carrying the pack was doing it not out of duty, or because they were forced to – but to humanize themselves to the soldier and vice-versa.

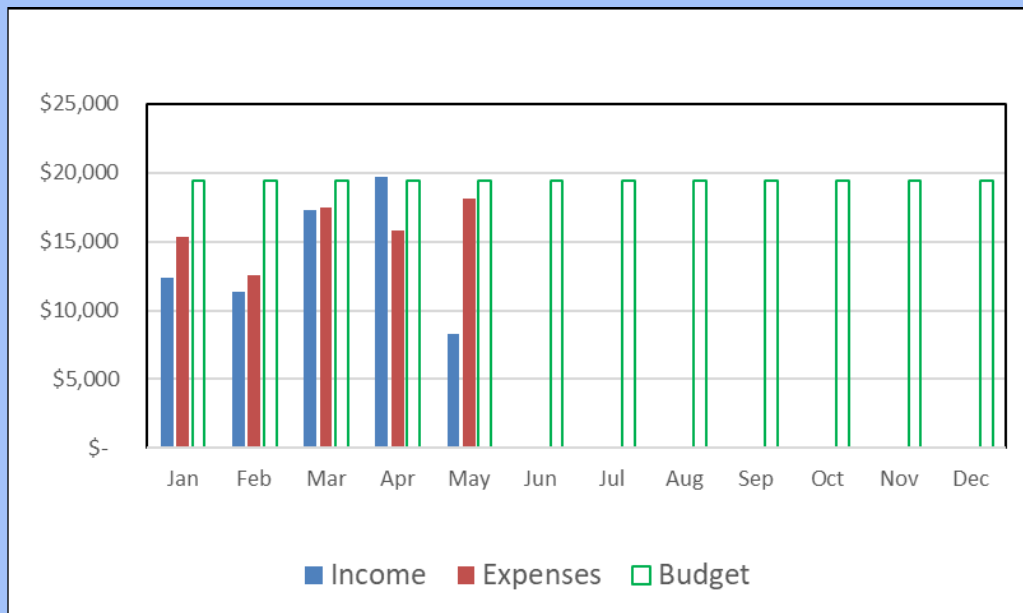
In this case, there were no demands made – instead, we volunteered to take an extra burden in order to help those that were having difficulty. And we shared that burden around, making it so that no one person had to take it all on themselves – we took joy in supporting each other, and not just for a short time. This is the joy and burden of Christianity – we care for each other, we take each other’s burdens, and know that we can rely on Christ to relieve us of the strain as we go the extra mile for each other.

~Pastor Lucus



## Finance/Stewardship

grant kessler



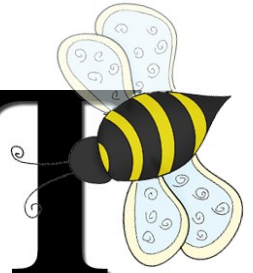
2021	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Budget</u>
<b>YTD</b>	\$ 68,937	\$ 79,117	\$ 233,441



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 <b>6th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 	5 Federal Holiday Observed	6 <b>6pm</b> <b>Read the Bible Class</b> <i>Intro to Genesis</i>	7 <b>11:00 am</b> <b>Mid-week book study via zoom</b>	8	9	10
11 <b>7th Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>Communion</b>  <b>Family Fun</b>	12	13	14 <b>11:00 am</b> <b>Mid-week book study via zoom</b>	15	16	17
18 <b>8th Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>Family Fun Day (Rain Day)</b>	19	20	21 <b>11:00 am</b> <b>Mid-week book study via zoom</b>	22	23	24
25 <b>9th Sunday after Pentecost</b>	26	27 <b>6pm</b> <b>Read the Bible Class</b> <i>Genesis</i>	28 <b>11:00 am</b> <b>Mid-week book study via zoom</b>	29	30	



# AUGUST



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 10th Sunday after Pentecost	2	3 6pm Read the Bible Class <i>Intro to Exodus</i>	4 11:00 am Mid-week book study via zoom	5	6	7
8 11th Sunday after Pentecost Communion	9	10	11 11:00 am Mid-week book study via zoom	12	13	14 10am PW Fall Gathering
15 12th Sunday after Pentecost	16	17	18 11:00 am Mid-week book study via zoom	19	20	21
22 13th Sunday after Pentecost Session Mtg 12pm	23	24 EOP Mtg	25 11:00 am Mid-week book study via zoom	26	27	28
29 14th Sunday after Pentecost	30	31 6pm Read the Bible Class <i>Exodus</i>				



## Trinity Presbyterian Women meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 9:30 via Zoom.

*PW are on break for the summer but will resume in Fall!*

**Fall Gathering - Aug 14th, 10:00 am**

## *COVID-19 Policy Update at Trinity Presbyterian Church*

The Session voted to ease a number of restrictions at Trinity, recognizing the greater number of vaccinated people and the lessening of the pandemic locally. Please note the following:

### **Masks**

Masks are now optional. We encourage everyone to continue to follow CDC guidelines

### **Worship**

You are welcome to find a place in the sanctuary for yourself, but be sure to say hello to the greeters and pick up a bulletin on your way in! Ushers will resume distributing the communion elements and passing the offering plate in worship.

### **Food and Drink**

Coffee and snacks are back! Please be on the lookout for the sign-up sheet for snacks from Fellowship!

### **General Guidelines**

Let's continue to be respectful of each other, and be courteous towards those who are most vulnerable by respecting a desire to wear masks and be socially distant. It's important to ask, "May I shake your hand?" or "Are you comfortable with a hug?"

## *Congregational Care*

richard spencer

### **Prayer Requests-**

We have 3 ways to offer prayer requests:

1. Call Richard Spencer (918-625-9711) or Pastor Lucas
2. Through the website via Trinity Tidings. Please use the following link  
<http://bit.ly/trinitybixbyprays>.
3. Prayer request slips in the weekly bulletin

**Rides to Worship-**Congregational Care and Worship are coordinating rides for those in need. Please contact Richard Spencer or Liz Powell for details.

### **Nursery Care-**

Donna Bridenstine will be in the nursery at 10:00 on Sunday mornings to care for our children during the worship service.



# Worship

liz powell

## Worship Team

As we move back into a more customary worship service the Pastors and the Worship Team would like to include more people in the Sunday morning worship service. If you are high school or college age and are interested in serving as Liturgist during a Sunday morning service please contact the church office or Beth Keppel. If you are in grades 1 through 6 and would be interested in serving as an acolyte during a Sunday morning worship service please contact the church office or Liz Powell

## Communion



Please plan on joining us for the celebration of communion on July 11th. If you would like to have communion elements delivered to your home please let us know by phoning the church office on contacting Liz Powell.

## The Westminster Confession

The confessional banner hanging of July represents the Westminster confession began in 1643, when adopted an ordinance calling for the liturgy of the Church of England God's Holy Word and most apt to home and nearer abroad." After Lords, an assembly to accomplish



in the narthex during the month Confession. The creation of this the English House of Commons "settling of the government and (in a manner) most agreeable to procure the peace of the church at the ordinance passed the House of this work convened in Westminster

The Parliament nominated one assembly. Thirty were members "learned, godly, and judicious were in attendance and had the Churches in Holland, Belgium, American colonies were invited came. The assembly held 1,163 in 1649.

hundred fifty-one persons to the of Parliament; the others were divines." Five Scottish clergymen right of discussion but not vote. France, Switzerland, and the to send delegates, though none sessions, finally concluding

The Westminster Assembly atmosphere. Internal conflicts had nearly torn apart both England and the English church. Political and religious problems were inseparable. Who should rule the church? Who should rule the state? What power should the king have? What power Parliament, local councils, and assemblies? The Anglican party stood for royal rule in England with the sovereign also head of the church's government. The Presbyterian party sought to vest authority in elected representatives of the people, both in Parliament and in church presbyteries. An emerging third party, soon led by Oliver Cromwell, wanted local autonomy for churches and limited powers for both king and Parliament.

conducted its work in a crisis

## Worship

liz powell

Even before the assembly met, civil war broke out between the contending parties. But the assembly went to work and eventually completed the “Form of Presbyterian Church Government,” a “Directory of Public Worship,” “The Confession of Faith,” “The Larger Catechism,” and “The Shorter Catechism.” Each document was approved by the English Parliament, which asked the assembly to add scriptural proofs.

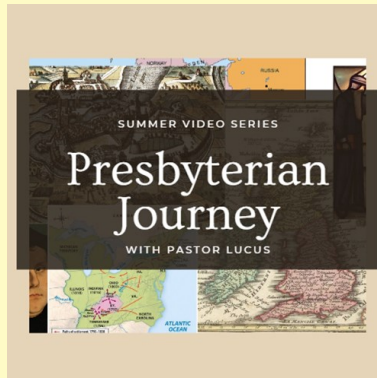
Cromwell’s ascendancy precipitated the end of the assembly. In 1648, Pride’s Purge forcibly excluded Presbyterian members from Parliament. With the execution of King Charles I in 1649, English Puritanism split into “Presbyterians,” who protested the regicide, and “Independents,” who supported it and aligned themselves with Cromwell.

In 1647, the Scottish General Assembly adopted the Westminster Standards for use in the kirk, replacing the Scots Confession of 1560 and the Heidelberg Catechism. The standards came to New England with the Puritans (Independents) and to the Middle Atlantic states with the Scotch-Irish Presbyterians. In 1729, the standards were adopted as the confessional position of the newly organized Presbyterian synod in the colonies and have played a formative role in American Presbyterianism ever since. The Westminster Standards represent the fruits of a Protestant scholasticism that refined and systematized the teachings of the Reformation. The standards lift up the truth and authority of the Scriptures, as immediately inspired in Hebrew and Greek, kept pure in all ages, and known through the internal witness of the Holy Spirit. Divine sovereignty and double predestination are also emphasized. In appealing to Scripture to formulate a covenant theology, the standards had important implications for political thought and practice, reminding both ruler and people of their duties to God and to each other.

The Westminster Confession affirms God’s work from its beginning in creation to its end in resurrection and last judgment. God is first, last, and preeminent in all things. God’s people are to understand and bring their lives into accord with God’s wondrous ways and magnificent will. The confession begins with God’s self-revelation in Scripture: God is the “one living and true God, infinite in being and perfection, invisible, immutable, immense, eternal, incomprehensible, almighty, most wise, most holy, most free, most absolute.” Out of nothing, God created all that is, including humans, whom God upholds, directs, and governs. Humans, however, did not remain in blessed harmony with God’s will. Sin’s intervention, which God permitted but did not cause, resulted in corruption of the human condition and of humans’ relationship to God. Yet, God has made a covenant of grace with humans; through Christ, relationship to God is restored. The Christian life—nurtured by prayer, preaching, and the sacraments, and lived in grace and glory—prepares for God’s predetermined end of mercy (salvation of the elect) and of justice (damnation of the reprobate).

The Westminster Catechisms: **The Larger Catechism**, written primarily by Dr. Anthony Tuckney, professor of divinity and vice-chancellor of Cambridge University, was designed for public exposition from the pulpit. **The Shorter Catechism**, primarily the work of the Reverend John Wallis, an eminent mathematician who later became professor of geometry at Oxford University, was written for the education of children. Both deal with questions of God, Christ, the Christian life, the Ten Commandments, the sacraments, and the Lord’s Prayer; unlike most earlier catechisms, neither contains a section on the Apostles’ Creed. Especially famous are the first question and answer of the Shorter Catechism. “What is the chief end of man? Man’s chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.”

## The Presbyterian Journey Continues!



Join Pastor Lucus for an online video series following the story of the Presbyterian Journey – where we came from, who we are, and where we might be going! The videos will combine history, polity, theology, worship, and storytelling – and are a great overview for anyone on their own Presbyterian Journey, whether you started walking eight weeks, or eighty years ago.

Look for them via: [Facebook.com/trinitybixby](https://www.facebook.com/trinitybixby) & [bit.ly/trinitybixbyvideos](https://bit.ly/trinitybixbyvideos)

In July, we're traveling to the New World for a look at how Presbyterians influenced the United States, and we'll conclude in August with a look at how we are Always Being Reformed, and what the Holy Spirit may have in store for us next!

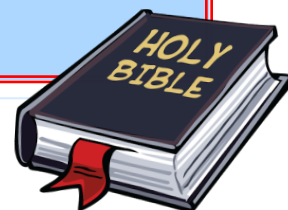
# Read the Bible

## *Starting July 6th @ 6pm*

Our "Read the Bible" class is back this Summer. We're going to start over from **Genesis** so if you missed it the first time and want to join us, you're more than welcome. We will have two classes per month (*the first and last Tuesday*)- one to introduce us to the book of the Bible and the second to discuss it.

Bring a Bible (*any translation is fine*)! No homework for the first class.

If you are interested, please let us know – call or e-mail the office. We will be meeting hybrid style: in person and on Zoom (just like Sunday school) in the Fellowship Hall. If joining remotely, please let us know ahead of time so that we can get the handout to you prior to our meetings. I can't wait to explore the Bible with you all again!





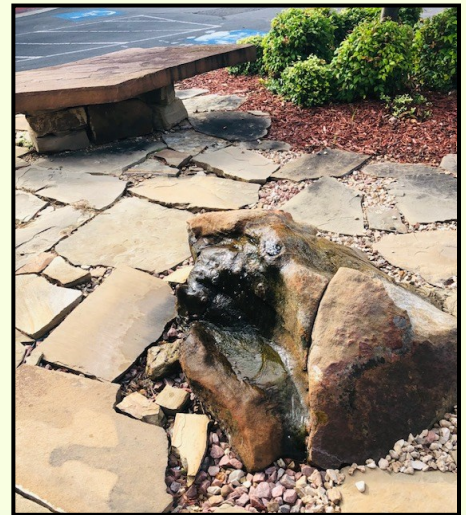
## Building and Grounds

nancy cain

### Have you noticed?

The bubbling rock bubbles once more, thanks to Bob and Barry. They dug down 2 feet (if Barry is to be believed), took out the old pump and installed a new one!

It shows the importance of Peter's "on this rock I will build my church". Water also reminds us of our Baptism.



## Christian Education

katie hanson



CE would like to invite EVERYONE to **Family Fun Day** on July 11<sup>th</sup>.

Even if you do not want to stay for the event, we encourage everyone to stay for our cookout. There will be hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers and more! After lunch, we will start the Family Fun Day festivities. There will be a story, an art project, a STEM activity, and a fun game. These activities will be ready for all ages! We cannot wait to see everyone there!

Our Family Fun Day will also serve to support local missions through our Trinity Blessing Box. Our goal is 100 items!

Please bring non-perishable food items such as:  
**peanut butter, canned meats, tuna/chicken pouches, canned ravioli/spaghetti, granola bars, rice, beans etc.**

# Mission News

john clawson



## Trinity Blessing Box

Our Blessing Box is located by the front door of the church.

As the sign says, "take what you need...give what you can." Please check the blessing box and refill as needed! Our community is continually blessed by our blessing box and we could use your help in keeping it stocked.

Most needed items include:

- Peanut Butter and Jelly
- Cereal
- Canned Fruit
- Baking Mixes
- Canned Vegetables
- Granola Bars
- Rice
- Cracker Sandwiches
- Beans
- Oatmeal
- Canned Meat
- Dry Pasta
- Canned Pasta
- Pasta Sauce

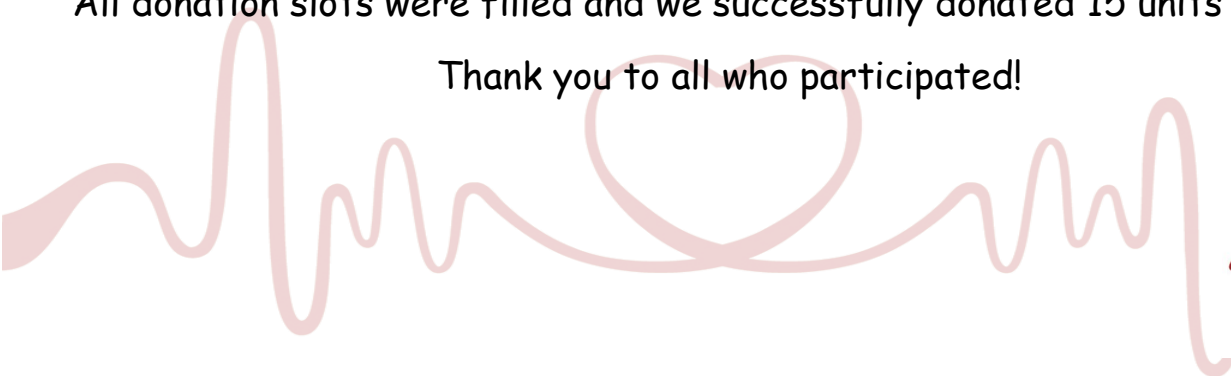


Our Blessing Box will also include free bibles thanks to a generous donation by a church that has recently closed. Let us continue to bless others as we have been so richly blessed.

## June's American Red Cross Blood Drive a Success!

Trinity Hosted a Blood Drive on June 30th. It was an overwhelming success. All donation slots were filled and we successfully donated 15 units of blood!

Thank you to all who participated!



# God's Magnificent Canvas

Enjoy a little peek into Pastor Lucus's recent backpacking trip to Colorado and God's magnificent handiwork.

*"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."*  
Psalm 19:1



## July Lectionary Readings

### 6th Sunday after Pentecost- July 4th

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10  
2 Corinthians 12:2-10  
Mark 6:1-13

### 7th Sunday after Pentecost- July 11th

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
Mark 6:14-29

### 8th Sunday after Pentecost- July 18th

2 Samuel 7:1-14a  
Ephesians 2:11-22  
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

### 9th Sunday after Pentecost- July 25th

2 Samuel 11:1-15  
Ephesians 3:14-21  
John 6:1-21



Liz Powell	07/08
Nancy Cain	07/09
Zac Adams	07/10
Ronald Rude	07/10
Jean Keller	07/16
Brenda Cunningham	07/20
Debbie Straabe	07/22
Leslie Haughey	07/30
Erik Collins	07/31



## Celebrations!

In June, we celebrated the baptism of  
Julia Curlee,  
daughter of David and Mallory Curlee.



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