

Trinity Tidings



June 2021

From the Pastor's Pen

Inside this issue:

From the Pastor's Pen	1-2
Finance/Stewardship	2
Calendar	3
Presbyterian Women	4
Covid 19 Policy update	4
Congregational Care	4
Worship	5
Presbyterian Journey	6
Read the Bible	6
Buildings & Grounds/CE	7
Blood drive/Mission	8
B'days/Congrats Grads	9
Sympathies	9

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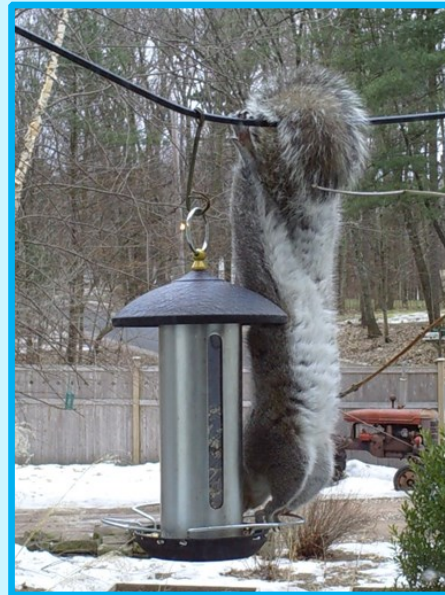
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Awe



("Squirrel on Bird Feeder" by Gunther Cox, 2009)

"Stand still and consider the wondrous works of God."
Job 37:14b

After so long being cooped up in our houses, stressed and worried about so many things, it feels good to think about having summer adventures. The thrill of the outdoors seems especially appealing – precisely because it's so different than all the compromises and care we've taken to be as safe as we can be.

Still, it's easy to get lost in the details and the frustrations of trips and outings, big and small. So, this summer, I invite you to hear Elihu's advice from the book of Job: "Stand still and consider the wondrous works of God." Some day, while you're out on the golf course, consider the beauty of each individual blade of grass, how richly green it is, how springy it feels under your feet. Imagine a God so big that every single blade, every root is known and loved – a God that sends the rain and gives the growth.

The next time you pass a flower, stop and smell it. Notice how the petals have slightly different shapes and how the colors vary from flower to flower. Think about how flowers did not need to be beautiful, but God chose to clothe the world with beauty as a sign of love and joy.

The next time you see a squirrel cleverly attacking a bird feeder, consider that God gave it the wits to outsmart almost every measure we think of to keep that feed for the birds. Watch it scamper and play, as though it is pleased to solve yet one more problem.

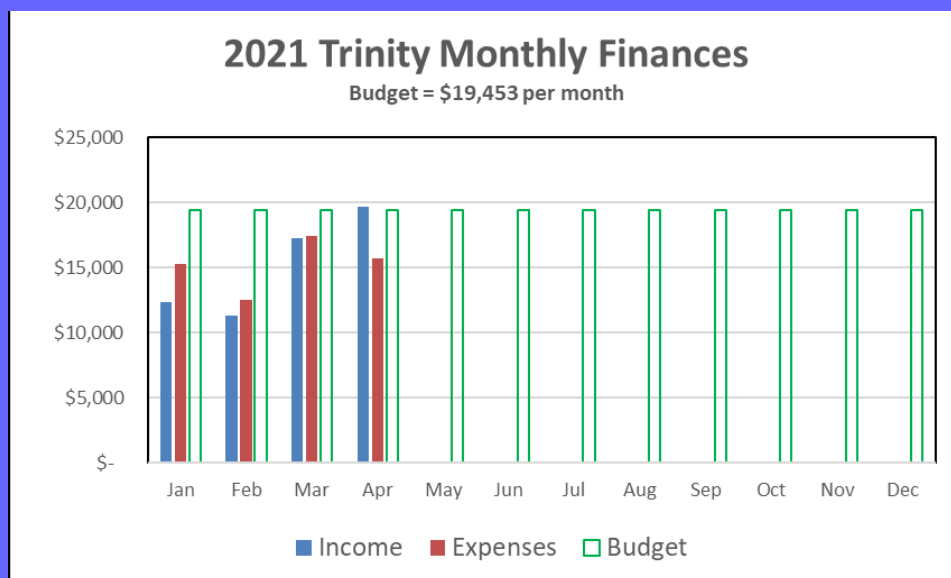
Once you have stopped and considered what God has done, go one step further: bless God's creation. I know this can feel awkward or uncomfortable, but God blessed us to be blessing. Why shouldn't we share in the gift of blessing things all around us? Look at that grass and pray for it: may God give you the sun to grow and the rain to be renewed as you praise the Lord with the glory of your greenness. Look at that flower and pray: may your life be a source of life and joy for others. Look at that squirrel and pray: may your family be safe and their stomachs filled, may you have friends to chase and puzzles to solve.

As you bless the wondrous works of God, don't forget that all humanity is part of God's creation, too – every stranger, every friend, each and every one of us. Don't forget to bless those that you see all around you. May God grant us open hearts that see the glory of the Lord all around us. Amen.



Finance/Stewardship

grant kessler



2021	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Budget</u>
YTD	\$ 60,663	\$ 61,039	\$ 233,441



June 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Book Study at 11:00 am (zoom)	3	4 EOP Spring Meeting	5
6 2nd Sunday after Pentecost	7	8	9 Presbyterian Women at 9:30 am (zoom) Book Study at 11:00 am	10	11	12
13 3rd Sunday after Pentecost Session Meeting 12pm	14	15	16 Book Study at 11:00 am (zoom)	17	18	19
20 4th Sunday after Pentecost Pastor Lucus on Vacation	21	22	23 Book Study at 11:00 am (zoom)	24	25	26
27 5th Sunday after Pentecost	28	29	30 Book Study at 11:00 am (zoom) Red Cross Blood Drive 12pm-6pm			





Trinity Presbyterian Women meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 9:30 via Zoom. The next PW meeting is Wednesday, June 9th.

Annemarie Kessler and Cindy Strasheim have accepted a shared position with Eastern Oklahoma Presbyterian Women to lead the Mission and Peace and Social Justice Committee.

The Trinity PW and the John Knox PW met for an end of year luncheon in person after meeting via ZOOM since February. It was decided that Trinity and John Knox PW's will meet together next year alternating church locations and lesson leaders. Everyone agreed meeting TOGETHER via ZOOM made the uncertainty of everyday living a bit more stable. Thank you, Lord for your wisdom and oversight in all things.

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.

Music will continue to be instrumental during main part of the service; however, we will be singing one hymn at the conclusion of each service!

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 Lucus
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.

-Memorial Service- Trinity held a memorial service for Lois Rude on May 21st and provided lunch for her family and friends.

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

We will celebrate our teachers on June 6th. At Trinity and in the larger denomination we have always encouraged, celebrated, required and appreciated education. In a year that brought additional difficulties and required greater flexibility to a profession that routinely faces difficulties and requires daily flexibility it is appropriate for us to recognize the teachers in our midst.

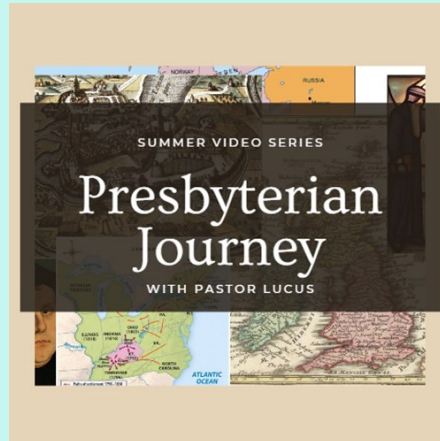
On June 20th please plan on joining us as we celebrate Father's Day.

The Second Helvetic Confession

In June the banner representing The Second Helvetic Confession will hang in the narthex. The word "Helvetic" is Latin for "Swiss." The setting of the Second Helvetic Confession is Swiss-German Reformed Protestantism. After the great Reformer Ulrich Zwingli died in battle in 1531, Heinrich Bullinger succeeded him as minister of the church in Zurich. Bullinger was a model Reformed minister. A preacher, he expounded Scripture at least twice a week. A scholar, he wrote Latin commentaries on many books of the Old Testament and on every book of the New Testament except Revelation. An educator, he initiated a system of schools for Zurich and was rector of the Carolinum, a theological academy. A person with ecumenical and political concerns, he was in correspondence with leaders of the Reformation and with rulers throughout Europe. A pastor, he welcomed religious refugees into his own home. When the plague swept through Zurich in 1564, he insisted upon ministering to the afflicted, even though he knew he might become infected and die. In 1561, Bullinger composed the document that later became known as the Second Helvetic Confession. He intended to attach it to his last will and testament to the Zurich church, but events in Germany soon brought it into the public arena. The publication of the Heidelberg Catechism created trouble for the man who had ordered its preparation. Lutherans considered it too Reformed in spirit, and they demanded that Frederick the Elector, governor of the Palatinate, be brought to trial for heresy. Not a theologian himself, Frederick turned to Bullinger, who offered Frederick this confession as the basis for his defense. When the Imperial Diet, the ruling body of Germany, met for trial in 1566, Frederick was exonerated. Meanwhile, the churches of Switzerland adopted Bullinger's confession as their new confession of faith. Soon finding wide acceptance throughout Europe and beyond, it was translated into French, English, Dutch, Polish, Hungarian, Italian, Arabic, and Turkish. Reflecting the theological maturity of the Reformed churches, the Second Helvetic Confession is moderate in tone and catholic in spirit. From the opening paragraphs it emphasizes the church and its life and affirms the authority of the Scriptures for the church's government and reformation. By including an article on predestination, the confession asks the church to trust in God's free and gracious election of its membership in Jesus Christ. At the same time, the confession addresses the practical life of the gathered community, detailing matters of worship, church order and conflict, ministry, the sacraments, and marriage.



The Presbyterian Journey begins June 7!



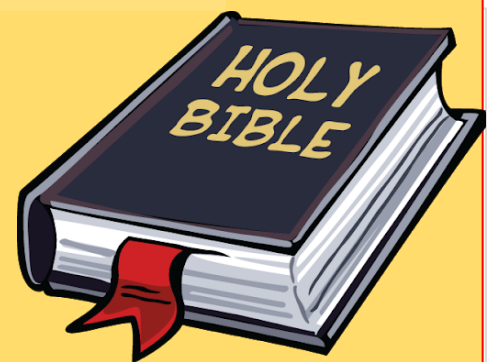
Join Pastor Lucus for an online video series following the story of the Presbyterian Journey – where we came from, who we are, and where we might be going! The videos will combine history, polity, theology, worship, and storytelling – and are a great overview for anyone on their own Presbyterian Journey,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

Facebook.com/trinitybixby & bit.ly/trinitybixbyvideos

June's videos will take us through Europe, focusing on the road to Reformation. In July, we'll travel 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!

COMING SOON

Read the Bible



Ever wanted to read the Bible from cover to cover?

Our "Read the Bible" class is coming 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 – one to introduce us to the book of the Bible and the second to discuss it.

If you are interested, please let us know – call or e-mail the office. We will schedule the class based on when everyone is available. We will be meeting hybrid style: in person and on Zoom (just like Sunday school). I can't wait to explore the Bible with you all again!

Building and Grounds

nancy cain

We have an abundance of spinach, green onions, and lettuce!
Come get them before the bunnies do!
(They already devoured the snow peas and kale.)



Christian Education

katie hanson



Congratulations!

****Senior Sunday** is coming up on June 6th!

In order to celebrate Matthew Sanstra, Jonathan Wigton, and Luke Wigton, we are asking everyone to bring a card filled with well wishes to church. There will be baskets on tables for each senior, along with a small reception following worship. We can't wait to celebrate our 3 amazing graduates!

****Mark your calendars for July 11th (Rain Day July 18th)
 for our *Trinity Family Fun Day!***

Family Fun Day is going to be a one-day VBS for the whole family! We will have a cookout immediately following worship. After we fill our bellies, we will go through all the stations you would see at a normal VBS followed by a closing. More information will be available in the coming weeks!





Red Cross Blood Drive



Please consider participating in our upcoming blood drive. Wednesday, June 30th, from 12pm -6pm!



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!



Backpacks for Bixby - We wrapped up another year of B4B serving 61 kids in our local community! Be on the lookout next school year to see how you can help!

Camp Trinity - We will not have Camp Trinity this year, but be on the lookout for summer events right here at Trinity!



June Lectionary Readings

2nd Sunday after Pentecost-June 6th
1 Samuel 8:4-11 (12-15) 16-20 (11;14-15)
Genesis 3:8-15
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1
Mark 3:20-35

3rd Sunday after Pentecost-June 13th
1 Samuel 15:34-16:13
Ezekiel 17:22-24
2 Corinthians 5:6-10 (11-13) 14-17
Mark 4:26-34

4th Sunday after Pentecost-June 20th
1 Samuel 17:(1a,4-11,19-23) 32-49
Job 38:1-11
2 Corinthians 6:1-13
Mark 4:35-41

5th Sunday after Pentecost-June 27th
2 Samuel 1:1,17-27
Lamentations 3:22-33
2 Corinthians 8:7-15
Mark 5:21-43



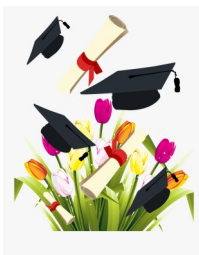
Katy Orrell	6/2
Maverick Sanstra	6/2
Beverly McComb	6/8
Jack Sanstra	6/10
Lee Adams	6/14
Amelia Austin	6/18
Ben Haughey	6/21
Otis Buttress, III	6/25
Craig Hanson	6/27

Congratulations!

Congratulations to our 2021 Graduates:



Kailey Rainwater
Matthew Sanstra
Gracie Walker
Jonathan Wigton
Luke Wigton



Deepest Sympathies

Our dear sister in Christ, Lois Greenleaf Rude, passed away Monday, May 17th. A memorial service was held here at Trinity on May 21st. Please keep Lois's family in prayer that they may find peace and comfort in our Lord.

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