



## WELCOME TO TRINITY

### September 2016

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As we all know, on August 14, 2016, our new Co-Pastors, or "Clergy Couple" as they are affectionately referred to, joined us here at Trinity, coming all the way from New Mexico!!

We are pleased and honored to welcome Rev. Lucas Keppel and Rev. Elana Levy to Trinity Presbyterian, and look forward to their long and joyous service here!

Welcome to the Trinity family, and we are excited to see where your service takes us!

### *From the Pastors' Pens*

In the Presbyterian Church (USA), the process of calling a new pastor is something akin to *online dating*.

After all, the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) fills out an online form, touting the best aspects of the church, and the potential pastors fill out their own set of forms that show their best theological and pastoral selves. Then, the PNC is sent matches from the computer matching service, and decides to hear sermons, interview, and eventually, meet with various candidates in person.

Finally, a pastor – or in this case, pastors! – show up at your church. And it's all smiles and hugs and greetings, but everyone is secretly wondering, "Are these people the right fit? Is this pastoral relationship thing going to work out?"

Also, there's a lot of food. Meals and conversation go together perfectly in this "getting to know you" stage.

Which is good! After all, Jesus ate with all sorts of people, many of whom he met for the first time that day! At least we have the assurance that the PNC and the Pastors approve of each other. So, let's get to know each other! Give us a call, email, or text, and Elana and I will be happy to meet with you one-on-one (or two-by-two, for that matter!)

Later this month, Elana and I will be presiding over the communion table with you for the first time. We'll be breaking bread, joining with you at the heavenly banquet, and remembering Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. But we'll also be *re-membering* the Body of Christ. Bringing the members of Christ's Body back together again, and growing a little more in faith and love and community.

For we have been members of the body at a distance, and now get a chance to see each other in person – and that's way better than online dating.

-Rev. Lucas

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## *From the Pastors' Pens, cont'd*

“Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup> through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup> No longer will there be any curse. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and G-d’s subjects will serve faithfully; <sup>4</sup> they will see the Most High face to face, and bear G-d’s name on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.” -Revelation 22:1-5



(South Falls in Silver Falls State Park, Oregon;  
Photo by Sheena McNeill)

When I finished social work school, a classmate (Sheena) and I went on a road trip around the country. Over the course of 6 weeks, we went from North Carolina to Georgia to the Gulf of Mexico to the West Coast to Vancouver to Minneapolis and through Nashville on the way back home. Since I had already been out of high school and college for a number of years, my friends and former classmates were strewn about the nation. We found them and crashed on their couches – renewing old acquaintances and meeting the people and the places that presently graced their lives. It was the first and only time in my life that I travelled for that long or to that many places in such a comparatively short time. We were excited to explore the country – neither of us had ever seen a desert or a rainforest (yes, we have some in Oregon!). In the midst of our enthusiasm, one thing became clear quickly – with all the ground we planned to cover, we would be constantly saying goodbye. Practically as soon as we began to thrill in a new city or new friends, we would be leaving them behind, possibly forever. But then a funny thing happened. Maybe it was the energy and openness that colored our travels; maybe it was our constant focus on the present – but pretty early on we realized that we weren’t just constantly saying goodbye. We were also constantly saying hello – constantly arriving in a new place with a completely different experience and more people and things to discover.

As many of you know, my Grandmother died on August 21<sup>st</sup> and I attended her funeral in Maryland. In prayer and meditation, my mind has gravitated to this passage from Revelation about the river of life and what that means for all of life. When scripture speaks of paradise, it tells us about a luscious city held safe and secure in the hands of G-d. Everything all around is bright and beautiful, green and alive. In this city, there is no darkness; there is no curse or sorrow. There is only the unimaginable light of Christ that sparks everything to life. And it is from here that the river of life flows. G-d, the source of life, calls us back to the wellspring when all is said and done.

All of our traveling and striving; all of our journeys of life bring us closer to G-d. As things change, as they always will whether we like it or not, we can take joy and comfort in knowing that every departure - even death – brings us one step closer to the G-d whose loving kindness knows no bounds. Hallelujah, amen.

*-Rev. Elana*

**Finance/Stewardship** randy smith

At Trinity, we follow the Manna Principle, which asks us to have great faith that God will provide all that we need and also great faith in one another to share in the blessings each of us has been given. We do not ask for a tithe or a pledge but simply to give as you are able and as you feel led.

Your generosity in giving supports a variety of programs that have a tremendous impact on those in need. Our own Backpacks for Bixby program currently provides approximately 80 children in Bixby elementary schools with weekend meals. These kids are recommended by school counselors for the program because they know these kids might otherwise go without meals on the weekend. Your giving also supports the Bixby Outreach Center which provides local families with the resources they need to get back on their feet. Other efforts that benefit from your giving include the John 3:16 Mission, Dwight Presbyterian Mission, Goodland Academy, and our partner church in Malawi, Africa.

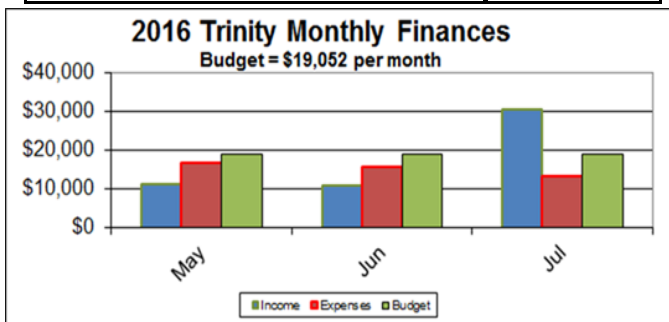
In addition to our mission giving, your assistance also supports the daily operations of our church including the salaries for our amazing staff and “awesome” new co-pastors Rev. Lucus Keppel and Rev. Elana Levy. This calling of our new pastors marks the beginning of the next chapter in the history of Trinity, and with the addition of several new members over the past few months, our future looks bright.

As we hit different stages and circumstances in our lives, we are able to give more at times and other times less. Regardless of your present situation, your giving financially or simply of your time is always appreciated.

Thank you for supporting your church and the many lives which benefit from your giving.

Randy Smith,  
Stewardship/Finance Team

2016	Income	Expenses	Budget
YTD	\$ 114,744	\$ 102,325	\$ 133,364



**Evangelism** brenda cunningham



Trinity is used as a voting place during elections, and for the Primary Voting over 500 people came to our church to vote. Many of them asked questions about our church and gave us an opportunity to let them see what we have to offer. With the November 8<sup>th</sup> election fast approaching, the Evangelism team believes this will be another great opportunity to show off our beloved church. We are asking for volunteers to work one hour or more from 7 am to 7pm (during the voting hours) to serve coffee, cookies and bottled water to the voters as well as hand out brochures and talk about Trinity to anyone who asks. We will pass around a sign-up sheet in October, but if you wish to participate, please tell Laura Van Newkirk, Michelle or Otis Buttress, Ed or Deanna Jolly, or Joe or me. Suggestions accepted also!



Not only are we updating the Pictorial Directory, but we are updating all Member Information on our church software. If you need a new picture, please see Joe or me. If you have a change of address, phone number or other information that may have changed in our Church Membership files, please let Kim Harvey, Trinity Admin, know at [trinity@olp.net](mailto:trinity@olp.net) or 918-369-3690.

Respectfully, Brenda Cunningham

**Congregational Care** margot ries

Our College Students are back to their respective colleges and ready to start another year of study. If you wish to send them a note to wish them well for this 1<sup>st</sup> Semester, please feel free to write a note and give to our Trinity Office Staff, who will in turn, mail your notes on to them.

Our College students this year are:

- Kelsey Johnson in Fayetteville
- Luke Clawson in St Louis
- Darby Campbell in Fayetteville
- Trevor Eckert in Stillwater
- Logan Wagner in Grand Junction

We know they would love to hear from you. Thanks for your support of our awesome college students!

Blessings, Congregational Care Team

*Worship* vicky adams / liz powell

**Rally Day is on September 11<sup>th</sup>.** Our choir will return and we will be introduced to a new song.

**On Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm** our new pastors, Lucus Keppel and Elana Levy will be installed. This service of installation will be in our sanctuary, and we will have members from all over Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery join us as we recognize the beginning of their ministry at Trinity.

**Upcoming Events:** The worship team is busy planning for the fall and advent. A couple of days to keep in mind are:

**October 2<sup>nd</sup> – World Wide Communion**

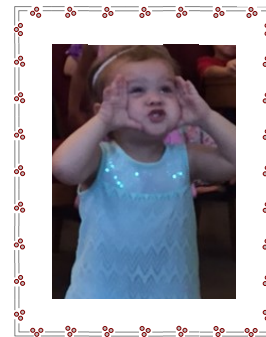
**October 30<sup>th</sup> – Reformation Sunday**

*Christian Education* sue chancellor

Rally Day Brunch is around the corner. Mark your calendars, bring a favorite brunch item, and meet us in Churchill Hall on Sunday, September 11 at 9:15 a.m. Be ready to experience delicious food, exciting fun and great fellowship! We'll be introducing our grand slate of 2016-2017 school year teachers and volunteers, as we focus on this year's theme: "Sing a New Song."

**O sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
Sing to the Lord, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.  
Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous works among all the peoples.**

**Psalm 96:1-3**



O sing to the Lord a new song...As we begin the new 2016-2017 school year, what encouraging, motivating words for us all. We're blessed here at Trinity with two new pastors, new members, new viewpoints, new friends, new memories, new experiences, new possibilities... and the list goes on...new "songs" indeed! What amazing adventures lay ahead for our Trinity family. And the song, "Vessel of Love" resounds in my mind as it speaks of "new places" that we can go to with our Lord "at the wheel." As our Trinity community treks forward along our faith journeys, our opportunities to share God's wondrous love are endless and breathtaking!

**Vessel of love, oh vessel of love,  
Lord can you make me a vessel of love,  
Send me to places I never thought of..  
You're in control, it's your peace I should feel,  
Nothing can harm me when you're at the wheel.  
Lord can you make me a vessel of love.**

**Jeff Rodebaugh**

# Sunday Morning Possibilities *Please join us when you are able every Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m. for many learning possibilities:*

**Child Care** Donna Bridenstine is in the childcare room at 9:00 a.m. every Sunday morning through the close of worship for infants & children through kindergarten age. An assistant helps her during worship whenever additional help is needed. Donna can also be available for parents during their Sunday morning choir practice time and the second Wednesday evenings of each month for team meetings. Just let Sue know, or call the church office a week in advance, if you are in need of childcare.

**\*\*Parents needing childcare during choir practice or team meetings can let Sue or Donna know in advance and Donna will be in the nursery during those times.\*\***



## Children's Sunday School for Pre-kindergarten through Fourth Grade

The children's teaching team is charged and ready for this fall's classes. We welcome Melinda Carver to the team and are excited to share some lively inspiring parables and scriptures through meaningful, engaging experiences. All children are invited to join us each Sunday this fall as we embrace the theme, "**Sing a New Song.**" We begin on September 4 with a marvelous veggie tale beginning at 9:15 in the Youth Lounge, "Beauty and the Beet."

September 4:	Sue Chancellor and Vicky Adams	
	Movie: "Beauty and the Beet"	(can help with Rally Day preparations)
September 11:	<b>Rally Day Brunch in Churchill Hall at 9:15 for ALL</b>	
September 18:	Valerie Wagner	"Disciples and Followers"
September 25:	Katy Reed	"Lost and Found"
October 2:	Melinda Carver	"Role Models"
October 9:	Vicky Adams	"The Strength of Jesus"

- **Tweens and Teens, Fifth Grade through High School:** Our tween/teen team is back in full spiritual force ready to discuss some timely meaningful topics upstairs in our room by the sound-tech. We have a great time together and look forward to new personalities joining us as well. Each of you are a vital vibrant part of our class and we look forward to sharing more thoughts and ideas together. We'll host the movie, "Beauty and the Beet," for our Trinity kids and work on Rally Day creations for September 11; please meet us in the Youth Lounge at 9:15 this Sunday. Be ready for a fun fellowship and learning each Sunday this Fall.

September 4:	Sue Chancellor and Vicky Adams	"
	Movie: Beauty and the Beet"	(can help with Rally Day preparations)
September 11:	<b>Rally Day Brunch in Churchill Hall at 9:15 for ALL</b>	
September 18:	Bob Eckert	"Godly Management"
September 25:	Royce Chancellor	"Seeing Lazarus"
October 2:	John Clawson	"Keeping the Faith"
October 9:	Sue Chancellor	"Stick with the Story"

## Adult Sunday School

Submitted by Nancy Cain: **"The Six Great Ends of the Church"**, takes on the challenge to name ways we can help those within our church and also outside of our church walls. The class believes these six great ends are vital in consideration of how we're to live our lives in the world. In our study we came across the following;

"Christ has no body but yours  
No hands no feet, on earth but yours.  
Yours are the eyes with which he compassion on this world.  
Yours are the feet with which he blesses all the world.  
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet yours are the eyes, you are his body.  
Christ has nobody now but yours.  
Attributed to Teresa of Avila

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### Richard Spencer's class continues with their stimulating conversation as they journey through the book of Exodus.

- Perhaps you wondered why Moses sometimes uses his **staff** and other times just extends his **hand** to enact God's wishes.
- Maybe you are puzzled as to why the Hebrews were ordered to **roast** the sacrificial lamb for the Passover meal instead of **boiling** the meat.
- Perhaps you've wondered about what the violence in the Old Testament reveals to us about God.
- Or you are curious why the prophet Elisha felt the need to sick a couple of she-bears on a group of 40-some teenagers for calling him "Baldy."
- Or, did you know how the brain processes information that bears directly on religious and theological ideas?
- There's much to learn & discuss!

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**Looking Ahead: Rev. Elana Levy will be offering a Sunday School class beginning in October.** Be looking for forthcoming information about this exciting class in the weeks to come.

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**Sack lunch fellowship meets at 11:30 a.m.** this Wednesday, September 7 in the cafe; please join us for friendly conversation. **We'll pack backpacks in Churchill Hall following lunch.**

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**Midweek Book Study begins this September 14 at a new time.** We'll continue to meet in the Trinity cafe but will gather an hour later from **11:00 a.m until noon.** We'll have three September discussions on our summer book, "the same kind of different as me," on the 14th, 21st, and 28th. Our first discussion will focus on "extraordinary faith" as exemplified in the book. Please plan on coming and sharing the friendly open conversation with us. And if it works into your schedule, bring a sack lunch and stay and eat with us following the study each Wednesday.

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**On September 21 at 10:30, we'll pack backpacks in Churchill Hall,** for those than can come early.

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**Our new book in October will be "Tattoos on the Heart" by Gregory Boyle, and discussion will begin on Oct. 5.**

"For twenty years, Gregory Boyle has run Homeboy Industries, a gang-intervention program located in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles, the gang capital of the world. In "Tattoos on the Heart," he distills his experience working in the ghetto into a breathtaking series of parables inspired by faith. Arranged by theme and filled with sparkling humor and glowing generosity, these essays offer a stirring look at how full our lives could be if we could find the joy in loving others and in being loved unconditionally."

**These beautiful books will be available for \$10.00;** a sign up sheet will be available in the office from September 7 through the 21st. The books should be in by Sunday, September 25 and we hope you're able to join us October 5 as we discuss the introduction to the book.

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## FAMILY/YOUTH/TWEEN/TEEN NEWS

**It's been another terrific summer here at Trinity thanks to all of you families! Thanks to all the tweens/teens who helped immensely with summer Sunday School, VBS, and Camp Trinity.** Your presence really made it enjoyable and meaningful for our kids! Thanks to all the super families who participated and shared such infectious joy and energy throughout the summer days.

**Kids of all Ages:** Our last summer "Marvelous Movie Morning" is this Sunday, September 4 at 9:5 in the youth lounge. We'd love to see you there as we laugh together with a funny veggie tale, "Beauty and the Beet."

**September 11 is our Rally Day Celebration beginning at 9:15** with brunch and all kinds of interactive fun! A special Rally Day Worship Service follows at 10:30 in the sanctuary. The uplifting service includes the presentation of 3rd grade Bibles, and a "warm welcome" to our First/Second Graders into Worship with our new pastors.

**A family pool party at the Chancellors**, 17010 E 47th St, 74134, follows with more food and frolic.

**On September 25, following Worship until 1:00, we'll celebrate kids of all ages with "Art, Fun, Food."** Lunch for all the family will be served in the Trinity cafe. Then be ready for good times as you tap into your creativity by jumping into an "artsy" activity of your choice.

**Everyone is invited back to Trinity at 4:00 p.m. on September 25 to celebrate the installation of our pastors, Rev. Levy and Rev. Keppel.**

**October 2 is the day we visit the FAA Control Tower at the Tulsa airport following Worship. Due to safety codes, you must be in first grade or older to participate.** Lots of hands on learning awaits us and more information will be forthcoming.

**Attention kids age 3 through 12th grade: This year's Christmas Pageant is set for Sunday, December 11 during Worship. We're once again thrilled that Lynette Kraft-Lindsey will be directing this joyful event!** She'll have important information at our Rally Day Brunch. Practice schedules will be available then, with the first practice being at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 2 upstairs in the first room off the stairway.



☐☐☐ **Thank You**

**One last huge heartfelt THANKS to all the wonderful generous volunteers who helped in so many ways this summer to ensure that Camp Trinity and VBS 2016 were once again amazing successes enjoyed by many!**

## Mission News john clawson

# Backpacks4 Bixby

### Backpacks 4 Bixby (B4B):

Our Backpacks 4 Bixby program just started our eighth school year delivering weekly food bags to 80+ children at four Bixby schools.

We started the program to fill a gap in our community. Elementary school children in need receive assisted lunches during the week but do not have that support during the weekend. So the Backpacks 4 Bixby program was started back in 2009 to help feed children on the weekends. The goal is to give them healthy food for breakfast & lunch on Sat. & Sun. every week during the school year.

We appreciate everyone that has signed up to deliver bags and there are still a few spots available to deliver on Thursdays. The sign up list is posted on the bulletin board outside the kitchen.

Donations of food are always welcome. Please continue to donate food items that are posted in your Sunday bulletins. Examples of items needed are:

**1st Sunday - Peanut butter & Jelly**

**2nd Sunday - Tuna**

**3rd Sunday - Spaghetti/Ravioli**

**4th Sunday - Canned chicken**

**5th Sunday - Juice boxes, fruit cups, individually wrapped snack packs, small cereal boxes**

Our donation basket is by the front door. Please remember that we can use whatever you bring; whenever you bring it. Also note that when you donate money to Trinity's General Fund, you are supporting our B4B program financially.

We truly appreciate your generosity.

Submitted by John Clawson



### Interim Pastor's Farewell

I believe God not only calls a pastor into a ministry, but when the fruit on God's vine is ripe, God in the same way calls us away from a ministry. Oh my goodness, have I been blessed for my time here at Trinity! While I rejoice, and am ever so thrilled for the future of this faith community, of course, there is a side of me that, at the same time, is a bit sad. I'm sure you must feel the same way. For to know you is to love you.

As a church, you have been so gracious and generous. From the first moment I stepped through the door, once again, you welcomed my call to serve as your pastor. I was quickly reminded just how faithful you all are to God's pull that places demands on your personal lives. You understand so well what it means to be part of the Body of Christ.

Although I was with you a little longer than we both expected, I have been enriched once again by the full breadth of ministry: from the joy of three baptisms – sensing insight into how you'll be enriched by the thirteen who joined your family – sharing in the many caring ministries of this church and even adding your new Malawi ministry – to even holding your hands in the sorrow of death as we gave up to life eternal three members. Thank you for your trust.

Worship my last Sunday was so joyful. The duet by Nancy Foland and Richard Spencer was beautifully appropriate – *may the road rise to meet you, may the wind always be at your back...* While it seems to fit my ministries, it is also my prayer for all that enter this special place. The genuine expressions of well-wishes at the reception following worship were especially appreciated. Debbie Straabe and Fellowship Committee have been working overtime – for good reason – there's a lot of compelling ministry going on in this place!!

I shall always hold Trinity close to my heart, and will remember you in my prayers.

Grace and peace,

*Pastor Judy*





# FUN TIMES AT TRINITY



Ladies of Sack Lunch Fellowship Hour  
Always a fun time!

The rest of the Ladies of Sack Lunch Fellowship Hour!



Ice Cream on the last day of Camp Trinity!



Practicing for the Big Finale!!



Learning a new song!



Hearing a new story!!!!

Doing a new craft!



## September Lectionary Readings

### 16th Sunday after Pentecost—Sept. 4

Jeremiah 18:1–11  
Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18  
Philemon 1–21  
Luke 14:25–33

### 17th Sunday after Pentecost—Sept. 11

Jeremiah 4:11–12, 22–28  
Psalm 14  
1 Timothy 1:12–17  
Luke 15:1–10

### 18th Sunday after Pentecost—Sept. 18

Jeremiah 8:18–9:1  
Psalm 79:1–9  
1 Timothy 2:1–7  
Luke 16:1–13

### 19th Sunday after Pentecost—Sept. 25

Jeremiah 32:1–3a, 6–15  
Psalm 91:1–6, 14–16  
1 Timothy 6:6–19  
Luke 16:19–31

## Happy Birthday September babies!

Larry Wagner	9/1
Richard Newman	9/4
Jackie Braselton	9/8
Jackie Ballew	9/9
Richard Spencer	9/9
Kira Smith	9/12
Larry Boxum	9/18
Brad Byers	9/24
Evelyn Fenton	9/30



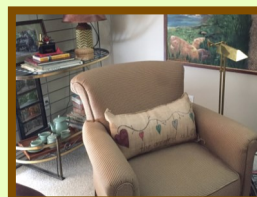
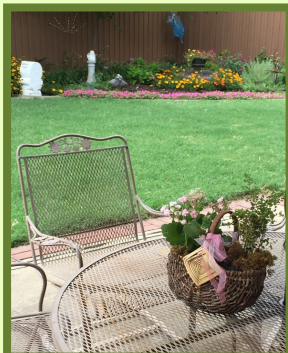
## Thank You Notes

“Dear Church,

You must know by now how I treasure God's call for me to return to beloved Trinity. Thank you for embracing my ministry. The farewell gathering was much appreciated. I wanted to show you my lovely gifts in their places as a constant reminder of our time together. The notes I received filled with grateful expressions of gratitude are cherished.

My constant prayer for you is: May God richly reward your ministry endeavors as you serve with love and joy.”

Blessings,  
Pastor Judy





# September 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 16th Sunday after Pentecost  Season of Peace begins	5  <b>LABOR DAY</b> Church Office closed for holiday	6	7  11:00 Sack Lunch Fellowship Hour Pack backpacks	8	9	10
11 17th Sunday after Pentecost <b>Communion Sun.</b> <b>RALLY DAY Brunch</b> <b>No Sun. Sch. Sunday</b>	12 Yoga Class 10:00 am Banner Making 11:30 am Turning Point 7:00 pm	13	14  11:00 am Mid-Week Book Study resumes  <b>Team Meeting</b> 6:00 dinner 6:30 meeting	15	16	17
18 18th Sunday after Pentecost  11:30 am Lunch Bunch	19 Yoga Class 10:00 am Banner Making 11:30 am Turning Point 7:00 pm	20  <b>Session Meeting</b> 6:30 pm	21  11:00 am Mid-Week Book Study Pack backpacks	22	23	24
25 19th Sunday after Pentecost  4:00 pm Lucus & Elana Installation at Trinity	26 Yoga Class 10:00 am Banner Making 11:30 am Turning Point 7:00 pm	27	28  11:00 am Mid-Week Book Study	29	30	

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