

Trinity Presbyterian Church
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STATED CLERK OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Stated Clerk denounces immigration officials' plan to return hundreds of Cameroonians to a situation of extreme danger

The Reverend Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) - October 13, 2020

The pain of the world is staggering. When life is brutally ended, when villages are razed, when people are forced to flee, our corporate silence is deafening. I lament the loss of life, livelihood, and safety in Cameroon. The civil unrest has caused thousands of deaths and has produced more than 670,000 internally displaced individuals. Currently there are more than 58,000 refugees seeking safety outside of Cameroon. Many have found their way to the southern border to ask for asylum in the United States.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) rejoices in relationships with strong mission partner presence in Cameroon. Our shared mission experience witnesses to robust church growth and well-established Presbyterian schools in the country. In fact, many of the Cameroon nationals seeking asylum in the US have a Presbyterian connection either through church affiliation or from schooling. Our partners are hurting. The World Council of Churches on behalf of the member churches in Cameroon is calling for an immediate ceasefire, respect of human rights, and the creation of a peaceful dialogue process to bring an end to the violent unrest. There is bipartisan legislation in the U.S. Congress that calls for similar measures. You can access the Action Alert from the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness here in order to contact your members of Congress.

And what should we do when these individuals seeking asylum make their way to our border? In 1999, the 211st General Assembly states that "the United States government should ensure that the constitutional rights for refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants to due process of law are protected." In the same policy statement, it urges the General Assembly Council along with presbyteries and sessions to "advocate for use of the credible fear standard for releasing asylum seekers from detention and assuring a more speedy adjudication to reduce unreasonably lengthy stays in detention." The United States government is breaking international law, U.S. sanctioned law, and their own immigration enforcement policies. We deny individuals access to asylum protections and we indefinitely detain individuals who have credible asylum cases. Instead of providing a safe and secure location for individuals who have experienced unthinkable trauma, we keep them locked in detention centers. As they try to advocate for their own rights they are punished. Now we plan to deport 100-200 individuals with credible asylum cases back to Cameroon even as our own government has denounced the dangers there. I denounce the decision to return Cameroonian nationals; they could be arrested, tortured, or possibly killed.

Read the latest newsletter from the Presbyterian Office of Immigration Issues. You will find more information about the realities of Cameroon and how you can urge the halting of the deportation flight and any future flights to Cameroon by calling your members of Congress. Your voice is needed urgently.

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ATTENDANCE

9/20 55

9/27 61

10/4 52

10/11 61

10/18 54

*Actual donations start of
2020 thru SEPT: \$178,341

*Budgeted donations
through SEPT: \$164,649

*Difference: +\$13,692

Reminder...

Turn your
clocks back!



Daylight Saving
time ends
November 1st
at 2:00 a.m.

I ask that you join me in prayer;

Lord of constant presence I ask your mercy ...

- For church partners living in a time for great fear and terror;
- For the many lives cut short due to unthinkable violence;
- For the many lives who are on the run trying to seek safety and protection.

Lord of constant presence I ask your courage ...

- For those seeking justice and peace;
- For the many who have voice to reach out to lawmakers with influence;
- For the many lawmakers who have the power to offer immediate help.

Lord of constant presence I ask your justice ...

- For those seeking rights in their country of origins in the context of oppression and exclusion;
- For those who valiantly seek protections in a foreign land that often feels unwelcoming.

Lord of constant presence I ask for your forgiveness ...

- For those who carry the burden of corporate silence that permits unspeakable sin to continue;
- For those who fear the stranger because they do not understand the depths of your love.

May we have the courage to speak out to take part in your justice-making. May we use our voices to help bring your peace to this world. May we learn to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Praying in the name of the one who guides us, Jesus Christ. Amen.



*The Reverend Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II
bowing his head in prayer*



PTCA SERVICE on 11/22/2020

On Sunday, November 22nd, the worship service will be provided by the Presbytery of the Twin Cities.



***Service of
Reconciliation
MON, NOV. 2
6:00 pm***

In anticipation of Election Day next week, Trinity will offer a **Service of Reconciliation** on Monday November 2nd at 6 p.m. via Zoom. The service will be a space of contemplation, prayer, and reflection. Please see the **Friday Blast** or “your weekly “Worship Materials” email for the Zoom link.

On This Rock I Will Build My Church

A Letter from Jed and Jenny Koball, serving in Peru

Dear Friends, This is the story of Peter. Three Peters, actually. Or, in this case, three Pedros: **Pedro Garcia**, the pastor of the House of God Presbyterian Church in the Villa El Salvador district of the capital, tracks through the dusty terrain with groceries in hand to deliver much needed aid to families barely hanging on. Since the arrival of the coronavirus to Peru, he has looked out for the least of these, and the people have heard his cry. With the support of his church members, his larger community, and the Peru Mission Network in the U.S., he has gathered the resources and people power to organize community kitchens in the most impoverished neighborhoods of Lima, keeping people fed in a place that has been otherwise devastated, if not forgotten, by the pandemic-induced economic crisis.



Pastor Garcia on the outskirts of Lima where he delivers groceries to families during pandemic times.

How the health care system has failed to maintain its most basic infrastructure—like medicinal oxygen generators—is inconceivable. A single tank of oxygen that may last a matter of hours costs more than \$1,000 on the black market—more than a year’s wages for many. Families not only await the opening of a bed for their loved ones, they await the death of their neighbor so that they may appropriate the final gasps of air from their oxygen tanks. Monsignor **Pedro Barreto**, Cardinal Priest and Archbishop of Huancayo—a longtime friend and ally in our fight for the health of communities impacted by mining contamination—has now taken to the airwaves to advocate for immediate investment in new medicinal oxygen plants. The people have heard his cry, and they have lifted their voices. Within a matter of days new oxygen generators will be producing life-saving air for the most desperate among us.



Jed assists Barreto in the regaling of stories about the Archbishop’s meeting with Pope Francis prior to being named Cardinal.

A year ago, **Pedro Bulón**, a pastor in the Lutheran Church of Peru and a board member of our Joining Hands Network partner, invited me to walk with him in the streets of Piura on the northern border of Peru in search of refugees who had recently arrived by foot from Venezuela. Following a journey marked by hunger, exploitation and other abuses, he sought to be a face of welcome, to offer hospitality and provide food and shelter to those escaping a most untenable situation. With the onset of the pandemic and subsequent rise of xenophobia, many refugees lost their sources of income, were evicted from their homes and are living again on the streets. Undeterred, Pedro continued to offer himself as an ever-present help in times of unimaginable trouble and in so doing he now faces his own struggle for survival as he rests alongside his wife in an Intensive Care Unit fighting the virus that discriminates against no one. And, the people have heard his cry, as we gather in prayer and continue his call for solidarity.



It has been said that many people are alive today because of the solidarity of others. Indeed, amidst the overwhelming death that shadows Peru and so much of the world, there is a light. That light is the life of Christ which is found in our solidarity—the strength of our oneness. It is like a rock that gave Peter his name. It is the foundation of the church. Of course, one need not be named Peter or Pedro, nor be a pastor or priest to become this church. One must simply be human—fully aware of one’s fragility; fully compassionate of the other’s struggle; fully committed to our coming together—because that is our strength, our hope, our salvation. For hearing the cries of Pedro, for joining with us in this walk, for supporting our call to God’s mission, and for being the church wherever you are, we thank you!

The Gathering Room Makeover Has Begun! But First... PAINT!

Are you able to lend a hand? Please RSVP to the church office with your availability. Big thanks to Neal S. & John U. for your help thus far!

Please RSVP to the church today!

Painting Times:
FRI, NOV 6, 6:30 - 9 pm
SAT, NOV 7, 9 am - 12 pm

Your
HELP IS
NEEDED!



Calling All Painters

Peace be with you! This year youth group will dare to live into Jesus' transforming love as we try out a combined hybrid youth group model.

Trinity Presbyterian, North Church & New Life Presbyterian will join together to fellowship, learn and laugh once a week. Each week after we will meet virtually from 5pm-6pm and get together once a month in person while observing safe practices.

This will be a new adventure for all of us as we journey together, we believe that we are stronger together, and together we are the body of Christ.

Here are the links to the churches websites so you can find out more info about each other if you like:

trinitywoodbury.org, northchurch-mn.org, newlifechurchroseville.org/home

With Joy, Pastors April, James & Riz



Upcoming Sunday

YGP Dates:

11/1 & 11/15

Time: 5-6:00 pm
via Zoom

REMOTE CHURCH SCHOOL



Remote Church School is for K-6th Graders and meets the first and third Sundays monthly via Zoom.

NOV 1 & 15, DEC 6 & 20, JAN 3 & 17

TIME: 4 - 5:00 pm via Zoom

Content: Beatitudes study with activities.

The Beatitudes: An Illustrated Curriculum is a twelve-session, verse-by-verse study of the Beatitudes from the Gospel of Matthew.

Designed to be led virtually, this study explores Jesus' timeless teaching through art, reflection, and discussion. This passage is full of wisdom that will enrich families and churches by exploring Jesus' vision of God's inclusive kingdom, observing how Jesus turned expectations and traditional beliefs about being blessed upside down, and imagining ways to live into the promises of Jesus' Beatitudes.

Twelve sessions that include the following:

Welcome and Chat: Includes a Welcome Question that you can use to engage in informal conversation while everyone joins the virtual space you're using.

Beatitude Reflection: A script that is meant to be used for leading these sessions online or via pre-recorded video. It will walk participants through the Beatitude that is the focus of the session.

Blessing: Gives you a chance to offer a blessing to the participants that ties in the focal scripture and/or Beatitude.

Imagining and Coloring: We encourage leaders to use the coloring page and discussion questions for imagining, coloring, and discussing.

Activity: We provide you with a possible activity for each session that inspires a deeper understanding and practice of the Beatitudes.

Prayer: A simple way that you can use to close each of the sessions with the participants.

If you have questions, please contact Pastor April.



SCRIP ORDERS DUE: Sunday, 11/5

The **holiday season** is just around the corner and GIFT CARDS are a wonderful way to say **“Happy Holidays!”**



get started with
Text to Give
Donations

Your continued support is needed!
Give online with ease. Try VANCO. Don't forget that there is a convenient way to give to the church. Contact the office with questions. Trinity's Text to Give#: 855-481-8171 or www.trinitywoodbury.org/donate.

Looking for a way to help?

Shop our AmazonSmile Charity Lists to donate items we need

amazon smile



Help bring joy this season

Buy your gifts at AmazonSmile and Amazon donates

You may also choose "Trinity Presbyterian Church" (of Woodbury) as your preferred charity on Smile.Amazon.com.

Grow Your Generosity

Being motivated by the needs of others — rather than the personal benefits of being charitable — is a key factor in enjoying the many perks of generosity. In other words, you can't fake it and still reap its rewards.

You can, however, more genuinely contribute your time, money, and talents. “Generous impulses can be learned, and it's exhilarating when you just get out there and try it,” says Notre Dame sociologist Hilary Davidson, PhD, coauthor of *The Paradox of Generosity*. To get started, she suggests taking stock of your resources — looking at time as much as money — and finding small ways these resources might be used for the good of others. Consider these ideas:

Start small. Make an extra pan of lasagna for a sick friend, buy a cup of coffee for the next person in line, share your pocket change, volunteer at a church, or just give someone a hug or pat on the back. (Touch is a powerful, direct way to give; it releases oxytocin, which promotes trust, cooperation, and sharing.)

Join a team. Paint the sets for a school play, join a church committee, coach a Little League team, get involved in a community improvement organization, work a phone bank, or team up with others to clean up a beach or local park.

Support a cause. Volunteer at a soup kitchen, run a 5K to fight cancer, help support your church financially, walk dogs at a local shelter, attend (or chair!) a fundraiser for your child's school, collect groceries for a local food bank, or make an annual pledge to a charity close to your heart.

Trinity Presbyterian Program Financial Summary	Thru month of			Sep-20
	Month Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Total Program Donations	\$24,660.55	\$178,341.75	\$164,649.18	\$219,532.26
Total Program Expenditures	\$13,276.40	\$136,186.56	\$171,670.86	\$229,737.73
Donations Less Expenses	\$11,384.15	\$42,155.19	(\$7,021.68)	(\$10,205.47)
Checking Roll Forward Add	\$833.37	\$7,500.33	\$7,500.01	\$10,000.00
Income Less Expenses	\$12,217.52	\$49,655.52	\$478.33	(\$205.47)
Mortgage Fund Donations	\$5,317.12	\$45,276.80		
Mortgage Expense	\$6,269.32	\$56,423.88		
Mortgage Balance	\$272,342.18			

Contemporary Issues Discussion will return in December

Wednesdays 6-7pm via Zoom

There are many reasons why it is difficult to talk about race and racism. There are also many reasons why we must and should have this conversation.



Participants will explore and discuss the reasons behind our reluctance to engage in fruitful dialogue about race and racism. The session will also provide opportunities to dispel common misconceptions about rac-

Trinity's Mission and Action Committee, with support from the session, is partnering with South Washington County School District in the school's winter clothing drive for kids in need.

A designated district coordinator will be responsible for assigning the student(s) and the need directly to the individuals/churches who have indicated a desire to donate new winter clothing to these kids.

RSVP ASAP - If you want to purchase clothing items, all you need to do NOW is to **RSVP to the church office by Friday, October 30th**. Kathie Wilkinson will contact you with more details.

If purchasing clothing online does not work for you but you'd like to participate, monetary donations are a wonderful option! Checks can be written out to Trinity Presbyterian Church with "Winter Clothing Drive" in the memo line.

With winter rapidly approaching, the need to get these clothing items purchased and distributed to the schools is priority.

Thank you for your willingness to help keep those in need warm this winter.

Kathie Wilkinson



WINTER CLOTHES



Tuesdays
2:30 pm

Tuesdays @ 2 :30 - ZOOM Bible study.

Details: Gather via Zoom from 2:30 to 3:30 pm
(Note: Temporary time change until 11/17).
Contact Pastor April with questions.



Wednesdays
12:00 pm
Prayer-Full Pause

Details: 10 minutes of prayer-full pause on Trinity's Facebook page through FACEBOOK LIVE. The prayer-full pause will also be saved on Trinity's FB page and posted on Trinity's website.

TRINITY TEXT ALERTS



Trinity Presbyterian is now using Mobile Phone Test Alerts! Servant Keeper Notify is a Rapid Alert & Communication System built for Churches and its various groups. Through it, Trinity has the ability to send out alerts/messages with rapid speed! If interested, please contact the church office. Only one text per month maximum.