



GOOD NEWS OF TRINITY

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September 2023



Sicily: A Masterpiece Wrought by God Himself

Dear Members & Friends of Trinity Presbyterian Church,
As I am sure you all have heard by this time, Karin and I will soon be flying to visit one of the most beautiful places on God's green earth, Sicily. Our travel dates will be from September 15th through the 26th. By way of this newsletter, I offer you a preview of our forthcoming odyssey in the hope that you, too, will be inspired to travel to a part of God's world where his creative touch can be enjoyed. As Karin and I envision our trip to Sicily, we expect our first taste of this island will be a brief encounter, exploring the north-eastern medieval town of Caccamo, and then tentatively dipping into Palermo. Our guidebooks will, we trust, dutifully show us the way and, with each excursion, we, hopefully, can begin to relax in Sicily's warm and carefree environment. There will come a point, we're sure, when we will want more from this odyssey, to peel back the layers and confront the diverse aspects of Sicily's personality. For this, we will rely upon our tour guide and various hosts to enlighten our minds. What, in time past, has inspired well-known authors and poets to visit or set their novels here? What can key Sicilian natives tell us about their homeland? Armed with an initial collection of must-reads recommended by our tour company, we will set off in search of the settings and stories mentioned in the books. We will likely follow the

time-worn footsteps of the ancient Phoenicians, Greeks, and Romans who first settled this beautiful island, followed by the Byzantines, Arabs, Normans, and Bourbons, lasting until Sicily became incorporated into Italy in the mid-19th Century. These sojourns through the island's rich cultural history and geography will likely begin to take the shape of a complex mind map that charts our guidebooks.



Assuming our guidebooks are accurate in terms of their opinion of Sicily, Karin and I expect to see a country where nature is a dream one can experience with our eyes open, a fairy tale that becomes reality, thus making an impression so very strong, that it will leave us with an indescribable feeling. In light of its well-known beauty, what will likely stand out are its active volcanoes: Etna, Stromboli and Vulcano, that many say seem to express the power of an adventure story's hero through gushing lava and shows of great power. Moreover, we eagerly look forward to discovering the sea of the Mediterranean, Tyrrhenian, Ionian, and Channel of Sicily, with all the hues of the cleanest and deepest waters, along with a thousand sandy, pebbled beaches that highlight the majestic cliffs above them.



Beyond reading all the travelogs and tour books that have much to say about Sicily, for most us who might be interested in this unique place in God's world, you should know that this country is situated at the tip of Italy's boot and is the largest island in the Mediterranean that is often viewed as an underappreciated haven after the hustle and bustle of mainland Italy. The majority of Sicilians consider themselves and the island as a separate entity from Italy; they have their own widely spoken dialect, traditions, and food, which is often much spicier and has a greater emphasis on fish and vegetables. As the largest island in the Mediterranean, with a highly strategic position, Sicily also has a hugely varied history which only adds to its character and allure. Since the eighth century when it was occupied by the Greeks it has been in the hands, as I have already mentioned, of a vast array of races; Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans, Arabs, Normans, French, Spanish and the Bourbons. All in all, both Karin and I eagerly look forward to embracing this most enchanting place among God's creation and will gladly share with you all upon our return to our church family at Trinity.

Meanwhile, I bid you "Caio," Murray





Women of Trinity

Thank you to Karin Thompson for hosting our August 9th meeting.

We opened our meeting with prayer.

Greeting Card Ministry report – Betsy Fairchild.

Treasurer's report – Our checking account balance is \$ 1,760.79.

Presbyterian Women - Birthday Offering - donations to date: \$190.00

Fellowship of the Least Coin Offering – donations to date - \$111.50.

Bakeless Bake Sale – the purpose of this project is to raise funds to donate to the general operating account of the church. Donations to date: \$805.00. Campaign ends August 31.

December 10th - We will host the Second Sunday reception with the theme “Come Home for Christmas.”

We share thoughts and prayers for our members, our families, our country, and our world.

Meeting schedule for the rest of the year:

(All dates are Wednesdays)

September meeting: 27th - Barbara Rinker's house at 12:00 – carpool will leave the church at 11:30 a.m.

October meeting: 18th – T&C Grille, Tunkhannock at 1:00 – carpool will leave the church at 12:30.

November meeting: 15th – Lum's in Dallas at 12:00.

December meeting: 6th - Allyson Lord's Christmas house at 12:00.

All of the Women of Trinity are invited to join us for fellowship, fun and good food. Please place your name on the monthly sign-up sheet in the hallway if you wish to attend any luncheon in the months ahead.



September		October	
9/08	Rev. Dr. Murray Thompson	10/02	Betsy Fairchild
9/12	Neil Morrison	10/03	Beth Davis
9/15	Thelma Smith	10/12	Chuck Borland
9/16	Drena Gorgone	10/12	Sara Davis
9/22	Annie McCaffrey	10/18	Janet Hunt
9/23	Windsor Davis	10/22	Linda Baines
9/23	Sherri Newell	10/25	Janet Cunius
9/24	Carol Vanstory	10/27	Charla Pilger
9/24	Kinsley Natt	10/29	Tracey Chappell
9/25	Tanya Christ		
9/26	Kayden Courter		
9/26	Lauren Cunius		
9/27	Robert Stevens		



September Anniversaries	
09/04	Dale & Barb Rinker
09/12	John & Nicole Fleschut
09/17	Lewis & Linda Baines

October Anniversaries	
10/09	Brian & Mari Johnson
10/11	Harry & Deb Cooper
10/24	Rev Dr Murray & Karin Thompson
10/29	Kevin & Erin Yurko
10/31	Art & Sandy Peoples



Church Picnic- Join us for our Church picnic on September 24th immediately following worship. There will be plenty of food, fun and fellowship for all. The Men's' Club will grill burgers and hot dogs! Beverages and watermelon will be provided. Please sign up in the hallway & indicate the type of dish you'll bring to share. Bring a guest!



Meals on Wheels~ If you would like to volunteer for Meals on Wheels on any open dates, please call Meryl Davis @ (570) 310-1556.

September 7, 2023	Meryl & Windsor Davis
September 21, 2023	

LITURGISTS - The Session wishes to thank everyone who has volunteered to serve as Liturgists.

September 3, 2023	Sherri Newell
September 10, 2023	Barb Rinker
September 17, 2023	Meryl Davis
September 24, 2023	

If you are interested in serving as a Liturgist, please check the poster on the bulletin board in the hallway and select a date. Rev. Dr.

Thompson is available to talk to anyone who has never been a liturgist but wants to give it a try.

Nicole Fleschut, Administrative Assistant, will send you your material prior to the date you are scheduled to be the Liturgist. Thank you, Art Peoples, Clerk of Session

Flower Chart for 2022

Here is the flower chart sign-up sheet in hallway for anyone wishing honor a loved one. The cost of flowers has increased to \$50 per week so please plan accordingly.



September 3, 2023	
September 10, 2023	Beth Davis
September 17, 2023	
September 24, 2023	Kristina Coy

Stewardship Committee – The 2024 stewardship campaign committee will begin meetings in late September or early October. We wish to thank you, the members, and friends of Trinity, for your generosity during 2023. We are confident that together we can meet our goal to ensure that Trinity's doors are always wide open to our fellow residents of the Back Mountain and beyond.

Endowment Fund Committee – We stand, as always, ready to help the church and our community. We have done a half-yearly performance review of our assets with Vanguard and New Covenant and our position is strong. Jan Hunt has resigned from the committee due to her busy work schedule. We presented the name of Elder Sharon Davis to the Session. She was approved to complete Jan's term to the end of 2024.

Howorth Trust Fund Committee – Trustee Susan Stanitis has submitted her resignation to Trustee Lewis Baines effective August 31, 2023. Lewis has asked President Sandy Peoples to fill the position of Trustee. The committee has selected John Fleschut as the new president. Nancy Thomas will remain as the secretary/treasurer. The committee will meet to vote on the open seat and make that recommendation to the Session as soon as possible.

**Session
Highlights**

Session Members: Arthur J. Peoples, Clerk to Session

**Kristina Coy
Sharon Davis
Sherri Newell
Karen Perzia
Wayne Williams**

**Meryl Davis
Ken Jones
Sandy Peoples
Barbara Rinker**

The regular meeting of the Session was held on August 15, 2023, at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Dallas, PA. The following items were discussed and acted upon by the Session.

1. Session approved Communion by Intinction on September 3, 2023 and Plated Communion on October 1, 2023.
2. The Session approved the baptism of Elizabeth Katherine Kozokas, infant daughter of Scott and Samantha Kozokas and niece of Michael and Karen Perzia, on September 9, 2023.
3. The Session is pleased to welcome Reid Jack Dunn Jr, Linda Armbrust and Richard Armbrust into membership of Trinity on September 3, 2023.
4. Elder Wayne Williams reported that the repairs on the parking lot are complete.
5. Child Abuse Clearance (CY113 Form) If you work with the children, have any contact with them or are even here in the church while the nursery school is in force, you need to have a child abuse clearance. The child abuse clearance is good for 60 months and at no cost when you are a volunteer. Google PA Child Abuse Clearance (CY113form)
6. Action by the Session as requested by the Mission Outreach Committee.
 - a. The Session approved the use of the Miracle building for a donuts at drop off on September 25 & 26, 2023. This is for the Trinity Learning Center.
 - b. The Session approved the use of the parking lot for trunk or treat on a date to be determined.
 - c. The Session approved the request to hold a special offering for Hawaiian Wildfire Relief on September 3, 10 and 17, 2023. The check should be made payable to Trinity and put in the memo. Line – Hawaiian Wildfire Relief.

- d. The Session approved the use of the Miracle Building on November 5, 2023, after church service, to pack the Samaritans purse boxes.
- 7. Sunday School (during church) will resume September 10, 2023. Karen Perzia has graciously agreed to teach this year.
- 8. The Hoagie Sales project has sold all of the 350 tickets. Since this is a continuing project, Trinity will obtain more tickets from J&J Deli. A special thank you to J&J Deli for supporting Trinity.
- 9. During this reporting period Rev. Dr. Murray Thompson supported Trinity and the community:
 - a. Hospital visitations 1
 - b. General visits 6
 - c. Contacts 9
 - d. Worship Services 8
 - e. Correspondence 23
 - f. Pastoral Coverage 2 (Pastoral coverage for other ministers in our area.)
 - g. Presbytery assignment: Rev. Dr. Thompson serves on the Committee on Ministry.

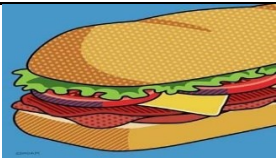
Respectfully submitted, Arthur J. Peoples, Clerk

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next deacons meeting will be Sunday, Sept 10th after church. On Saturday September 9th @ 830 a.m. Lum's Fernbrook there will be a meeting. All men are invited and encouraged to attend.

The Outreach Committee's good Samaritan Christmas project donation item for the month of **September is school supplies**. Nothing too large as we will be shipping in shoeboxes Thank you for your willingness to donate to this project. Donation item for the month of **October is hats, scarves & gloves**. Thank you for your generosity.



 <p>J & J Deli 3101 Memorial Highway Dallas, PA 18612 570-675-6139</p>	<p>TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HOAGIE SALE J&J Deli is offering any 8" Sub <u>UP TO</u> \$8.00. For each hoagie sold, J&J Deli will return \$2.00 to Trinity Presbyterian Church. Hoagie coupons do not expire and are redeemable at J & J Deli. Please see any member of the Helping Hands Committee to purchase your tickets.</p>
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