



The Commitment

Newsletter of Trinity Reformed Church in Rochester, New York

A ministry of the Reformed Church in America

Seeking HIS Light ... Reflecting HIS Love

November 2019 · Vol. 27, No. 3

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Trinity Reformed Church's **Annual Meeting** will be held on Sunday, November 17th in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship. All members are encouraged to attend. We will hear a report from our pastor, recognize elders and deacons completing their terms, elect elders and deacons to serve terms beginning in 2020, recognize individuals and groups in the congregation who have made important contributions to the ministry of the church this past year, review our financial budget performance to date, and present the 2020 budget for a congregational vote. The packet distributed at the Annual Meeting will include reports from committees and groups in the church. Please be thinking about any person or group that you may wish to recognize during the time set aside for this.



As in previous years, the Mission Committee will once again be organizing **Angel Tree Gifts** to benefit the children of Trillium Health clients. Beginning November 17th, there will be a tree in the narthex adorned with the names of children for whom we will provide a Christmas package.



When you take an angel, please sign the sheet next to the number(s)/ name(s) that you have taken along with your phone number. There is a limit of \$25 per child – please keep this in mind as we want to be fair to families in which more than one child will be receiving one of our gifts. If the item specified is too costly or you aren't sure on item selections or clothing sizes, it is acceptable to purchase a \$25 WalMart or Target gift card that can be wrapped and given to the child. All wrapped gifts must be returned to Trinity by Sunday, December 8th with the cardboard tag affixed to the package.

Thank you in advance for being a part of this mission and making the holiday season brighter for these children!



909 Landing Road North | Rochester, NY 14625 | (585) 381-5330



E-Mail: TrinityReformedRochester@gmail.com



Website: www.trcroc.org



Facebook: Trinity Rochester

Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

During our recent Stewardship Emphasis in worship, we heard from members, scripture, and sermons about the stewardship of our Time, Treasure, and Talents. Part of those themes was that there is an ordained time for everything in God's creation (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8).



It is important to recognize that there is a time to ponder the stewardship of our gifts and to actively engage in using our Time, Talents, and Treasures for the good of all – and to recognize that time is not limited to October pledge drives in congregations before Advent and annual budget meetings! Our gratefulness to God for our gifts and our stewardship of those gifts is a year-round, life-long response to God's gracious giving.

With this in mind – I want to briefly write again about stewardship and also write about giving thanks, even if it isn't Thanksgiving quite yet.

At the Consistory meeting last month, days before Ecclesiastes 3 was a part of our Sunday worship, we read the scripture (and remembered The Byrd's "Turn! Turn! Turn!") and listened to Stevie Wonder's "A Time to Love" for our devotional before the meeting. These three (scripture and two songs) combine to encourage Christians in the stewardship of the most important gift that we can give and/or receive: God's Love.

Sometimes we think that the most important thing we can do as Christians is to receive God's love. This is but the beginning of Christian discipleship. A life of stewardship revolves around the sharing of God's love. All of our Time, Talents, and Treasures were not given by God to enable us to be Christians that simply receive God's love, and then leave it at that. Instead, God's love is the first gift we receive; the other gifts are given so that we would use them to share that love with everyone we meet.

Lastly, there is not a time too soon to be grateful for God's gifts. Thanksgiving for God's gifts is not something that should occur only in November, or even wait until Sunday mornings at church. God continuously gives and renews our gifts, our praise and thanksgiving should therefore be continuous.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Steve

**"We have time for racism
We have time for criticism
Held bondage by our isms
When will there be a Time to Love?
We have time to cause pollution
We have time to cause confusion
All wrapped up in our own illusions
When will there be a Time to Love?
Now's the time to pay attention.
Yes, now is the Time to Love."**

**Stevie Wonder, "A Time to Love"
A Time to Love, 2004**

**"To everything (Turn! Turn! Turn!)
There is a season (Turn! Turn! Turn!)
And a time to every purpose, under heaven."**

**The Byrd's, "Turn! Turn! Turn!"
Turn! Turn! Turn!, 1965**

*"A time to be born, and a time to die;
A time to plant, and a time to uproot;
A time to weep, and a time to laugh."*

Ecclesiastes 3

Consistory Notes



The Deacons reported the Church income through September is under the projected budget by \$10,726. Our projected expenses are also under budget by \$62,300. Also, our investments have seen a year-to-date increase in value of 12.6%.

The Consistory approved the 2020 expense budget to be presented to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 17th. Copies of this expense budget projection will be available Sunday, November 3rd. The full 2020 finance projection with anticipated income will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

Our insurance provider has encouraged that the parsonage be occupied; however, renting out the parsonage would jeopardize our exemption from property taxes. Our secretary, Michaela Johnson, needs new housing beginning in 2020. The Consistory approved a month-to-month agreement with Michaela. She will reimburse the church for the (historical) expenses of utilities and maintenance. A month-to-month agreement leaves the parsonage available when we call a new pastor.

The Consistory has approved the change of the church phone and internet service to Spectrum. We expect this change to improve the internet service. Consequently, our e-mail address has changed. Please note the new e-mail (TrinityReformedRochester@gmail.com).

The Consistory noted the wonderful look of the kitchen floor. Thank you, John Bernhard, for this and all the other ways you help our ministry!

The Education Committee has been busy cleaning the Education Building basement to provide a welcoming atmosphere for our children. The carpets will be cleaned. The youth room will be painted. New curtains will be made for the nursery and youth room. Many unused or dilapidated items will be disposed of. The Consistory will be working with the Committee to accomplish these tasks. If you would like to help, it would be most welcome.

~Greg Halsey,
Consistory Clerk

2019 CONSISTORY

Elders:

Jana DiPiazza
Sharon Hann, VP
Bonnie Harris
Lesley Holloway

Deacons:

Bill Almekinder
Greg Halsey, Clerk;
Larry Scheerens
John Stratton



CONSISTORY MEMBER OF THE WEEK

Nov. 3: Bonnie Harris

Nov. 10: TBD

Nov. 17: TBD

Nov. 24: TBD

CHURCH OFFICERS

Treasurer: Marge Magans

Benevolence Secretary:

Michael Holloway

Financial Secretary:

Greg Halsey



Please submit items for Trinity Times by 9:00 am, Wednesday mornings. You may email TRChurchSecretary@gmail.com, or call the office at (585) 381-5330.

I kindly ask that you respect my Sunday Sabbath. If there is something you need to discuss with me, please leave a note on my desk, send an e-mail, or give me a call during my posted office hours.

~ Michaela Johnson,
Secretary

TRC Thursday Senior Breakfasts

Contact John Stratton with questions or concerns at (585) 267-7535

Date	Location	Note
Nov. 7	Mama Lor's Cafe	Ridge Road, Union Hill
Nov. 14	East Ridge Diner & Steakhouse	East Ridge near Pep Boys
Nov. 21	Morningstar Greek & American	Merchants Road
Nov. 28	None	Happy Thanksgiving!
Dec. 5	Atlantic Family Restaurant	Ridge Road in Webster



11/9	Aiden McGarvey
11/12	Ann Ghyzel
11/12	Joyce Schurr
11/13	Audrey Warn
11/15	Eileen Midavaine
11/16	Leah Burberry
11/16	Barbara Mitchell
11/17	Marian Teamerson
11/22	Ken Hsu
11/27	Marilyn DeVisser
11/27	Philip DiPiazza



11/22	John & Bonnie Magin
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Congratulations to Kristin and Bill Shuman (and big brother Brayden) on the October 8th birth of **Myles Thomas Shuman**. Myles is the grandson of Jim and Barb Stoops.



Stewardship Task Force

A sincere thank you to all who have submitted their pledge cards for next year. There is still time, as the Deacons will be collecting them through November 1st. These will give us some idea of what people anticipate giving in 2020.

Many thanks to Pastor Steve, Bonnie Magin, Carl Warn, and Cole Palen who have reminded us during worship of what will help TRC to minister to our members, our neighbors, and those in need in our community and beyond.



New Church E-Mail



The general church e-mail has changed. Please send general correspondence to **TrinityReformedRochester@gmail.com**. We no longer have access to TrinityReformedChurch@frontier.com as we are in the process of switching our contract to a new internet provider.

The monthly adult Sunday School class entitled “**What Are Hymns and Worship Music Really Saying?**” will not meet in November due to the Annual Meeting. The next class will be held on Sunday, December 15th. Michaela apologizes for the cancellation and hopes to see you in December!



TRWM: Our November meeting will be on Friday, November 8th at 1:00 pm in the Lounge. After a brief business meeting and a time of prayer, we shall watch a DVD featuring speaker Marilyn Meberg. The title of her talk is: *What ARE You Thinking*. Refreshments will be served by Linda King as we have our time of fellowship together. ALL women are invited to join us.

This year's "**Step It Up! 5K Walk**" is the 10th annual indoor 5K walk benefitting Pancreatic Cancer Research. The walk will be held on Saturday, November 16th, from 12:00 noon til 4:00 pm at the RIT Gordon Field House, with registration beginning at 12:00 noon and the walk beginning at 1:30 pm. It's a day of family fun with entertainment and activities for all ages! Our own Patricia Van Dussen will be walking in memory of her husband and to help raise money for pancreatic cancer research. Over 56,000 people are diagnosed annually. Pancreatic cancer has the highest mortality rate of all cancers - three out of four people diagnosed die within the first year and only 8.5% survive beyond five years.



Proceeds from the walk will support a comprehensive approach to fighting pancreatic cancer from diagnosis to research by supporting the development of a Pancreatic Cancer Center of Excellence at the University of Rochester Wilmot Cancer Institute. If you would like to support this cause, please make your check payable to Pancreatic Cancer Association of WNY. You can send your check to Patricia Van Dussen or donate online on her fundraising page: <https://www.classy.org/fundraiser/2351522>. For additional information and to register to participate in the walk, please visit their website at <https://www.pcawny.org>. Thank you for your support in helping us raise awareness, money for research, and hope for a cure!



November 3 rd	December 15 th
November 24 th	December 22 nd
December 1 st	January 5 th
December 8 th	

**schedule subject to change*

Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf



- Canned Soups
- Tissues
- Paper Towels

Please place donations in the basket in the Narthex. Thank you!

Updates From Our Missionaries

Peter & Patty Ford: The Fords continue their work at the Near East School of Theology (NEST) in Lebanon. They ask that you keep the border between Syria and Turkey in prayer, as the area continues to face conflict and two recent NEST graduates minister to those affected.

JJ & Tim TenClay: JJ's work as coordinator for RCA Global Mission's Refugee Ministries has led her to a project in which they will rebuild a school in Iraqi Kurdistan and provide intense trauma care to children in the region. She also invites you to attend Mission 2020 in Orlando.

Wayne & Miho Jansen: After spending the summer on home assignment, the Jansens have returned to Japan. They ask that you keep the Japanese people in prayer, as many do not know that Jesus came for people in Japan as well as for other groups of people.

Felipe and Janelle deWaard-Silva: We will begin sponsoring Felipe and Janelle in 2020. They work with Roma youth in the Jiu Valley of Romania at Fără Limite Climbing Gym. Their goal is to build trust, perseverance, character, and courage through rock climbing.

For **additional information** and/or to sign-up to **receive updates** from our missionaries, please visit:

<https://rca.org/peter-patty-ford>

<https://rca.org/jj-tim-tenclay>

<https://rca.org/wayne-miho-jansen>

<https://rca.org/felipe-and-janelle-dewaard-silva>



Updates From the Regional Synod of Albany

Camp Fowler Harvest Gathering: This annual event will be held on Monday, November 4th at the Glen Sanders Mansion in Scotia, NY. Each year, the Gathering brings more than 300 friends of Fowler together for an evening and helps raise over \$30,000 annually for their budget. The evening begins with appetizers and a silent auction at 6:00 pm, with dinner and a special presentation to follow at 7:00 pm. Visit <https://www.campfowler.org/harvestgathering> for more information.

Education and Advocacy Resources about Peace in the Middle East: Recently, the Albany Synod Executive Committee sent a letter to several upstate U.S. Congressional representatives calling attention to the Israeli military's detention and ill-treatment of Palestinian children in the West Bank. The letter urges our representatives to support H.R. 2407, "The Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living under Israeli Occupation Act". The Reformed Church in America and Churches for Middle East Peace are also listed as endorsing this legislation. If you'd like to learn more, please reach out to John Paarlberg (jpaarlberg@gmail.com), who serves as a volunteer regional coordinator for Churches for Middle East Peace.



The dedication of the **Habitat for Humanity** Home at 39 Love Street was held on Friday, October 18th. Eudisia Taveras, the homeowner, is pictured here with Erwin Mageary as she receives the traditional Habitat Hammer for all the sweat equity she put into her home. She and her two young adult children will move into the home on November 1st. If you'd like to learn more, please visit: <https://www.rochesterhabitat.org/news/love-street-dedication>.



Many thanks to everyone who attended **Fall Work Day** on Saturday, October 26th. Leaves were raked, pews were cleaned, the youth room was sanded and painted (still a work in progress), windows were washed, and many other tasks were completed thanks to those in attendance. There is still plenty of work to be done around the property, so please consider taking some time to help us prepare for winter and maintain our buildings. See the list on the bulletin board for a task and speak with John Bernhard if you have any questions!



The Greene's hosted the annual Friends in Fellowship **Buffalo Bills Game Viewing Party** on Sunday, October 20th. The twenty-six attendees enjoyed a great game, delicious food, and wonderful fellowship. The Bills beat the Miami Dolphins by a final score of 31-21. Go Bills!



Christian Book Review

By Marion Crump Spencer

What if your life was transformed by...Miracles? The book Miracles by Terri Blackstock encompasses two complete novels in one volume. This amazing book includes the novel The Listener, which illustrates "...how thin the wall really is between heaven and earth..." Both novels involve church-attending Christians who are serving God in a way they feel is adequate. Then something happens that shakes up their worlds.

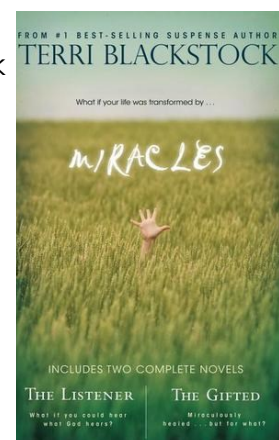
The Listener begins with a disturbing dream that Sam had but did not understand. He dreamed of a woman finding a lost coin and celebrating her good luck in finding it. Then he was awakened by a voice in his dream shouting "EPHPHATHA, EPHPHATHA!" Sam awoke drenched in a cold sweat and trembling. Sam wondered if it had anything to do with the Pastor John's sermon on lost sheep that Sam yawned through earlier that day. Sam and his wife, Kate, are regular church-attenders, yet instead of listening to Pastor John's sermon, Sam thought about the traffic and the crowds at the restaurant they regularly attend after worship. In his closing sermon remarks, Pastor John asked the congregation: "Have you ever considered what God hears in the hearts of people? What if we could hear with God's ears?" As Sam wondered what his dream meant and what that word meant, he contemplated whether it was simply guilt at his inattention that caused him to have the dream.

Sam put the dream and lack of sleep behind him as he prepared for work. After he dropped Kate off at work, he went to the diner he frequented. There, he began to hear what others were saying in their souls. He began to hear with God's ears! At first, Sam denied what was happening and he tried to run away from all of the voices. But it was no use. He met with Pastor John who excitedly persuaded Sam to use this "gift" to help grow the kingdom. What follows in this insightful novel is reluctant obedience to God and then full-on evangelism by Sam and others with whom he shared his secret. The members went out two-by-two like Jesus instructed the early disciples. Even though Sam heard supernaturally, the members' ears were in tune with what was happening around them and they were just as effective.

Just when church attendance was skyrocketing for the congregation, a momentous shift occurred that tested the faith of them all.

This novel calls into question whether we really listen to the cries of the lost all around us. Why don't we share the Good News? Blackstock brilliantly illustrated her points by using everyday Christians who serve on church boards, attend Bible studies, and serve during worship.

***"At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened
and he began to speak plainly." Mark 7:35***





Please call Barb Stoops at (585) 506-5559 with **prayer requests**,
or with information about people for whom we are praying.



November 2019

Trinity Reformed Church

*calendar items
subject to change

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 7p- Manuele Bible Study	2 10a- Crafts for a Cause
3 10a- Worship 12:30p- CAYA 6:30p- Discipleship Group	4	5 	6 6:15p- Bells 7p- Choir	7 9a- Sr. Breakfast 6p- Finance 7p- Deacons	8 1p- TRWM 	9 10a- Crafts for a Cause 12p- Dahlia Society
10 10a- Worship 12:30p- CAYA 6:30p- Discipleship Group	11 7p- Christian Ed. 	12 7p- Pastor Search Committee	13 5:45p- Music & Worship 6:15p- Bells 7p- Choir	14 9a- Sr. Breakfast 7p- Consistory	15 7p- Manuele Bible Study 	16 10a- Crafts for a Cause 12p- Step It Up! 5K Walk
17 10a- Worship 11:15a- Annual Meeting 6:30p- Discipleship Group	18 7p- Outreach	19 11:45a- Men's Lunch	20 6p- Mission 6:15p- Bells 7p- Choir	21 9a- Sr. Breakfast	22 6p- Come to Dinner 	23 10a- Crafts for a Cause
24 10a- Worship 6:30p- Discipleship Group	25	26	27 6:15p- Bells 7p- Choir	28 	29 4:30p- Decorating 	30 10a- Crafts for a Cause





Trinity Reformed Church
909 Landing Road North
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14625

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