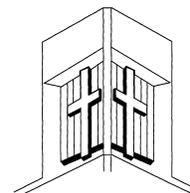


CONNECTIONS



HEART SONGS

2021. A new year. Many were waiting for 2020 to be over thinking that all of their troubles would disappear. Unfortunately, troubles are not limited by a date on the calendar. Instead, choose to look beyond the limits of a square on a calendar and hang on to God's promises that are not bound by time. Choose to use a different filter than that of the world and to look clearly at what Scripture says about what God has done, is doing and has yet to do through his Son, Jesus Christ. Choose to catch glimpses of God's grace every day. Choose to anticipate his tireless intervention in a messy world. Choose to listen for his voice either directly or indirectly – each and every day. These choices are made in spite of a virus.

This month, we are beginning a sermon series called "Heart Songs". These are the hymns and praise songs that trigger something within us. Often for me, this music triggers a flood of tears – a reminder of a time that I felt so very close to God on my own spiritual journey. Often these songs remind me of the greatness, the bigness, the immensity of God and I am awestruck. I am reminded that I can let go and trust that God has everything in control – I am not to worry. When I read the story behind a hymn, I often discover that the words originated from the lyricist's own spiritual struggle or realization of what God is capable of – and this makes the hymn even more meaningful for me. Many hymns expound on a specific Scripture passage or a biblical theme. I am looking forward to digging deeper into our "Heart Songs".

PREACHING SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY *"Heart Songs"*

January 3	"Holy, Holy, Holy"	Pastor Deb
January 10	"It Is Well"	Pastor Phil
January 17	"How Great Thou Art"	Pastor Deb
January 24	"Be Thou My Vision"	Pastor Phil
January 31	"His Eye Is On the Sparrow"	Pastor Deb



Dear Trinity Family,

The Covid Response Team met & discussed at length, the current status of our community in light of Covid-19. Our health system is continuing to be overburdened as cases of the coronavirus continue to surge. Many of us have family and friends that are struggling with the virus or the threat of the virus and as a result, many of our own holiday traditions have been interrupted. Our health department is begging everyone to be extremely cautious as we make daily choices of how to interact with others outside of our household.

As a team appointed by consistory to discern the best response to this health crisis, we have decided to continue to pause our in-person worship through **January 17, 2021**. We believe that, as Christians, we can show our love to our local community by doing our part in reducing the chance of spread of this virus. We would much rather have our body healthy and providing some sort of positive impact in our community than potentially being a burden on the healthcare system.

In the meantime, we are so very fortunate to utilize the technology available to us during this time of virtual worship. You may listen to our services via radio on WHTC on Sundays at 9:30am, via Facebook Live at Trinity Church-Holland, or you can live stream our service from our website at www.trinityrc.org.

We will continue to communicate through our weekly bulletins & our monthly Connections newsletters which are both posted on our website. If you do not have access to internet and are not already on our mailing list to receive printed material, please call the church office at [616-396-6526](tel:616-396-6526) to receive the mailings. (The office remains closed at this time, but messages are checked periodically.)

Please know that it is with heavy hearts that we have made this decision to continue to worship virtually, for now at least. Our love and care for you, your extended families and our community has led us to this choice as the best response. May God bless you and may you feel His loving arms around you during these especially trying times.

Trinity's Covid Response Team

Elder Gregg Harper

Pastor Phil

Elder Jan VanAuken

Pastor Deb

Deacon Steve Lundy

Dear Friends,

It was with much sadness that the "Covid response team" decided to pause in-person worship. We know that scripture teaches us to gather faithfully and how valuable that time is. Some of you came regularly to worship in person, and others of you faithfully listen on the radio or Facebook live. We miss shaking hands, sharing smiles, seeing the children & engaging in Sunday coffee conversation.

Now we are asked to pause the habit we hold so dear, but we are not asked to pause in showing love to the folks we miss. Do you have a phone? Do you use email or Facebook? Do you have note cards, paper, envelopes and stamps? If you do, then go to the Lord in prayer and ask him to bring to mind someone who you might enjoy talking with on a "normal" Sunday morning during coffee time. Who do you connect with there, and who has reached out to you at times? Who would you like to get to know a little better? Who might need a listening ear right now or some encouragement? Who have you been wondering about? Listen for the Lord's ideas for you, then do it! You will be a blessing! This is our mission field right now!

Your Consistory

BENEVOLENCE AT TRINITY

DID YOU KNOW?

Trinity has a Benevolence Team!

Trinity's Benevolence fund has been blessed with gifts over the past several years. In the past, benevolence requests were mainly handled by the pastors and the Benevolence Deacon. Recently, we decided to form a Benevolence Team. The pastors, who usually receive the requests, will present the requests to the team, who will then review the request and along with guidance from the pastors, make a decision.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Benevolence Fund *has* to be spent!

The consistory decided in 2016 that the benevolence fund should have a bottom cap. When funds reach a certain maximum in excess of that bottom cap, and no requests have been made, a gift is made proactively to someone in the community with the excess funds.

DID YOU KNOW?

We can reach our community!

We recently donated excess funds to several local organizations and individuals. What a blessing that was! We were able to bless the local organizations listed below. If you know of an organization that we could send a gift to in the future, please let a pastor or one of the team members know.

Trinity Care Closet	Escape Ministries	Renew Therapeutic Riding Center
Breakfast with Baby	3sixty	Community Action House
Kids Hope	Hand2Hand	Holland Rescue Mission
Habitat for Humanity	Church of Grace	Holland Public Schools
Harrington's Hope Care Closet		Trinity Teachers

DID YOU KNOW?

You can be involved!

If you know of a local organization that benefits our community, or if you know someone who is struggling, you can help them anonymously through the Benevolence Fund. Simply reach out to Pastor Deb, Pastor Phil or a Benevolence Team member for details and assistance.

BENEVOLENCE TEAM

Rob Harrington
John Houting
Amanda Eckermann

THE TEN COMMITMENTS

I shall not come to church if I am sick.

I shall not come to church if someone in my family is sick.

I shall sanitize my hands when entering the church.

I shall cover my nose and mouth with a cloth covering while in church.
If I do not have one, one will be provided to me.

I shall maintain SIX feet between families in church.

I shall do my best not to touch my eyes, nose and mouth in church.

I shall protect our vulnerable important people (VIPs) who are over 60, have a preexisting medical condition, and are at greatest risk.

I shall exit the building when the service is over.

I shall conduct social distancing measures while socializing outside after the service is concluded.

I shall help others to feel safe by my behavior.



- Worship services will continue to be broadcast on WHTC 1450AM / 99.7FM, via live stream at <http://www.trinityrc.org/webstreaming.cfm> and live on Trinity's Facebook page.
- Join us for noon prayer time on Facebook (Trinity Church - Holland) Tuesday and Friday.
- Don't miss Kids Club every Wednesday evening on Facebook (Trinity Church - Holland)!
- The bulletin, Connections newsletter and monthly devotionals will be mailed to those who do not have internet access. For those with internet access, the bulletin, Connections newsletter and monthly devotionals will be available online.

Bulletin: -Go to www.trinityrc.org
-Directly below the three pictures, click on "Bulletin"

Connections: -Go to www.trinityrc.org
-At the top of the page, click "Resources"
-At the left hand side of the page, click "Connections Newsletter"

Monthly Devotional: -Go to www.trinityrc.org
-At the top of the page, click "Resources"
-At the left hand side of the page, click "Daily Devotional"

If you would like to receive communications from Trinity in printed form, please call the church office and leave a message. With the landscape of Covid-19 changing frequently, communication is especially vital to staying connected. Be sure to check the TV stations though for last minute cancellations as we are unable to contact everyone personally.

Although we are unable to worship in-person at this time, we are hard at work meeting the needs of our community. These are some ways we have been reaching out, offering encouragement and meeting the needs of others in the name of Jesus:

From Community Connection Team

Because we have not been able to meet for our Third Thursday Breakfasts, our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner or our Christmas Breakfast, Senior Ministries surprised our seniors with 87 turkey dinners prepared by Bob Evans during the month of November. If not prohibited by the county health department, those folks living in facilities received poinsettia plants. In December, we expanded our Christmas card ministry by including many who, although they are not “shut in” per se, have been isolated due to the pandemic.

In December we delivered 5 “goodie” boxes full of individually wrapped snacks to the staff at Holland Hospital’s Emergency Dept and ICU/Telemetry Units, the Holland Police Dept and various nursing homes to say thank you for their service during these challenging times

Nestlings Diaper Bank has struggled to keep up with the demand for diapers in Ottawa County. In fact, they have not been able to provide size 6 diapers to many community agencies that work with families that depend on them. Our own Care Closet gets diapers from Nestlings for the families we serve. Nestlings had an opportunity to buy size 6 diapers directly from the manufacturer if they could raise \$40,000 by December 1st. It has been projected that this semi-trailer load of diapers would meet the needs of our community for over 12 months. Responding to the plea for help, Community Connection donated \$1600 to help them meet their goal – and they did it! The diapers are on their way to Ottawa County!

Funding for these “surprises” was provided by monetary gifts that have been designated for senior ministry and by Community Partnership Funds.



How To Say Thank You?

The words seem so simple to such a wonderful giving, supportive community. Nestlings put out the call for help and you responded. What a Blessing! Simple or not, we are going to say it and keep saying it. Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Look at how beautiful these skids of size 6 diapers look! They are here and all nestled into their home while they wait to go onto the babies’ bottoms.



The process has begun, the size 6 diapers are beginning to get re-packaged, the shelves are getting stocked and in January 2021 they will start to go out the agencies and on to the families who need them. Over 260,000 diapers will help over 7,000 children. Yay!

This amazing gift happened all because of you. You helped Nestlings to raise \$40,000 in 5 weeks to purchase these diapers. If we could hug you individually, we would, but we will just say Thank You once again and tell you how much we appreciate you.

Thanks Again and Happy Holidays,
Tania Snyder and The Nestlings Team

NEWS FROM PASTOR DEB

TRINITY'S FIRST EVER ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Coming in January!

- When?** Tuesdays at 10am and Wednesdays at 7pm beginning January 12 and 13 (studies are identical)
- What?** Study of John based on Max Lucado's book, You Are Not Alone (you do not need to purchase the book)
- How?** Via Zoom on your computer, tablet or smart phone
- Where?** From your kitchen, in your living room, in Holland, Arizona or pretty much anywhere

We will ponder the questions:

- When life feels depleted, does God care?
- I'm facing an onslaught of challenges, will God help?
- When life grows dark and stormy, does God notice?
- I'm facing the fear of death, will God help me?

These are timely questions for this particular season. I so hope you will zoom with me. Contact me, Pastor Deb (deb@trinityrc.org) or leave a message on my cell (269-599-8730) and I will send information on how to connect.



THIRD THURSDAY SENIOR BREAKFAST
is cancelled until further notice.



Cover to Cover Book Club

Check your email to see when Cover to Cover will resume.

NOTICE TO CONSISTORY AND ALL COMMITTEES

You are encouraged to continue using ZOOM to conduct meetings. If pre-arranged with Lauren, your group/committee of 10 or less may meet in the Connection Café. Please practice social-distancing and wear your masks. There is a cleaning cart in the Café for you to sanitize the area that you use before and after you meet. If you have any questions, please contact Lauren.

The church office remains closed while the state is in Phase 4. When the state reopens to Phase 5, the office will be open but office hours may be adjusted. In the meantime, if you need to meet with Pastor Deb, Pastor Phil or another staff member, please make an appointment. ***In order to provide a safe work environment for church staff, please do not enter the office area without making prior arrangements.*** We know this is not ideal and that relationships are so important, so we encourage you to call.

Pastor Deb 269-599-8730 (cell)

Pastor Phil 906-298-1701 (cell)

Note from Pastor Deb

As we find ourselves once again in virtual mode, we continue to look for new ways to be Christ's church. It is especially challenging during this advent season since this is typically the time when folks enjoy long-held traditions and are more open to connecting with the church to attend services and special events. Also, during the holiday season, families and friends are more apt to intentionally connect and "catch up" with one another. But what happens when these opportunities for connection are put on "pause"?

We get creative. Because folks can't "come" to church – we must "go" to them. Once full calendars are mostly emptied of the seasons festivities so we have a prime opportunity to reach out to people in unexpected ways. In October it was by simply moving our Halloween "trick or treat" outside to the Apple Trail. Families have expressed their gratitude for a safe alternative to going door to door.

I am so proud of our Benevolent team who made the decision to spend down the fund by blessing 20 recipients with year end gifts. We have received thank you notes from many as well as a few phone calls from them expressing their heartfelt gratitude for our generosity.

In November, we brought 87 turkey dinners from Bob Evans to not only seniors from Trinity but also to those who have had an especially difficult season due to the effects of Covid-19. Meals were met with smiles and tears as individuals and couples were reminded that they are part of something bigger and that they are loved. Residents of nursing home and assisted living facilities are still the most at-risk due to visitor restrictions and we will need to figure out how best to serve them beyond our radio broadcasts and elder calls.

The Chrismon service still went on even though we had to change the format a bit. Volunteers of all ages participated either in person or they were pre-recorded as we tried to continue the tradition of "Hanging of the Greens" to kick off the Advent season. I look forward to our updated video capabilities which will improve the audio and visual quality when streaming.

Our daily devotionals have a wide reach as they are emailed to many outside of our congregation. We have tried to make them more interactive this year as we have focused on spiritual disciplines. This month we have entitled them "Glad Tidings". We are encouraging people to intentionally reach out to others by offering daily prompts. As leaders of this congregation, I hope that each of us will follow these prompts as we reach out not only to our Trinity family, but far beyond.

In January, we will begin a sermon series entitled "Heart Songs" which is reminiscent of our hymn sings. Each Sunday, we will base our message on a favorite hymn/song of the church and the corresponding Scripture. Many hymns have stories behind them and these will be incorporated into the day's teaching. We are hoping that these familiar "Heart Songs" will be another way to connect people to the worshipping body.

Finally, please be sure to thank our Elders and Deacons (especially those who have finished their terms) for their leadership during these unprecedented times. We have had hard discussions, made tough decisions and have been forced to think outside of the box on numerous occasions. I believe that each man and woman was appointed and anointed as a leader for such a time as this. May God bless each one of you as you influence your own circle of family and friends with the message of Jesus. May the Spirit compel you and equip you to minister in ways that you have never imagined – but that He has.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Deb

Update from Rowland and Jane Van Es
December 2020

Dear Friends,

Joy to the world, this year is almost done . . . We do have joy as we end 2020 and head into 2021:

Joy to the world, the Lord is come; Let earth receive her king; Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing . . . This year, just as in every year, Jesus is Lord and at Christmas we celebrate that the Lord has come. We all need to make room in our world and our hearts for more of Jesus: more faith, more hope, more love; that is what makes heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns; Let all their songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, repeat the sounding joy . . . This year, and next year, the earth also needs more joy. In Jerusalem, Jesus said, if his disciples didn't cry out about all the miracles, the stones would cry out. We, too, celebrate the miracles of life and joy found even during this pandemic.

No more let sin and sorrow grow, nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make his blessings flow, far as the curse is found . . . 2020 ended with news of a vaccine for COVID and in 2021 many will be immunized against the virus that shut down the world. This is a blessing from God, may it be shared widely so all are free from corona's curse. For our sins, we still need to know Jesus.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love . . . This is our comfort and our challenge going forward in 2021, that truth and grace will keep ruling the world. Here at St Paul's University in Kenya, we are still preparing our students to be servant leaders who love God and all their neighbors.

Rowland serving communion virtually.

Jane working from her office.

As we take stock of the year 2020, we praise God for the following:

- The ability to teach two semesters entirely online and the fact that most of our students were able to complete their work and take their exams virtually.
- The opportunity to continue leading Sunday worship remotely.
- The generosity of donors who provide scholarships for students to study at St. Paul's University. Go to www.rca.org/vanes if you would like to help a needy student. We are also grateful for those who support our work directly.

As we look ahead to the year 2021, we ask for prayers for the following:

- A safe, partial re-opening of the main St Paul's campus in January where students will be studying three classes in person and three online. High schools and primary schools re-open too.
- An effective roll-out of the vaccines so as many people as possible are protected and the global economy and tourism picks up again for Kenya and the rest of the world.
- A good start for our new St. Paul's University Vice Chancellor, Prof. James Kombo, who takes over from Prof. Joseph Galgalo, who steps down after completing 10 years in faithful leadership.
- A chance to travel to the U.S. for home-service (May-August), for a long-overdue visit with our daughters and other family members—and all of our friends and supporters.

Joy and Peace,

Jane and Rowland Van Es, your RCA Global mission partners serving in Kenya.

Dear Friends,

As 2020 draws to a close, we recognize that this has been a challenging year for everyone. But as we look back on the year, we see so many things to be thankful for. We are thankful that, despite lockdowns and restrictions, our ministries have continued to thrive & even expand. The compassionate care team completed 890 home visits this year to an average of 24 patients. The recording team completed one New Testament recording and has another one nearing completion. The audio Bible distributions looked a bit different this year, but we were still able to distribute 3500 audio Bibles in 11 languages. New Harvest Farm has seen major leaps forward through this year of challenges. The government restrictions on the gathering of people meant that our normal training sessions had to take a break, but that has pushed us to start an extension service which has already had an impact on our local community. In October, thanks to the generosity of Meredith Drive Reformed Church, we were able to distribute quality seed packs to 140 families in our local community. We have also used this “lockdown” time to develop infrastructure at the farm, including the opening of new fields, the building of terraces, digging irrigation ponds, and completing roads. We have now entered into our third growing campaign & we are already seeing some great results from all of the hard work.

Our family has also seen many blessings this year despite the challenges. The girls completed eighth and first grades and we (Dara and I) survived another year of trying to be homeschool teachers. We have also been blessed this year as we feel that we have been better able to connect with friends and family as the use of Zoom and other video conferencing programs have become a part of everyone’s daily life. Another blessing is that Dara has been accepted into a graduate program at the University of Florida to work on a graduate certificate in Arts in Medicine. She will begin that program in January. After another year of very little movement in our adoption case, in the past few weeks we are finally seeing some renewed hope that it may conclude soon. We just heard last night that the prosecutor has finally signed off on the process and that it has been sent back to the court to set a final court date. This is what we have waited four long years for! Our lawyer has confidence that the judge is in favor of the adoption and there is still some hope that he can squeeze our case in before the end of the year. We pray with all of our hearts that this will happen and that we can start the New Year officially as a family of four!

As we look forward to next year, we do so with renewed hope. We are excited to see what the Lord has in store for our ministry & our family. We look forward to continuing to show God’s love to our neighbors by providing health care, access to Scripture, and agricultural training. We look forward to the possibility of traveling again as a family after four years of being “stuck.” We look forward to new educational experiences as the girls begin a new year of homeschool and Dara continues her education. We look forward to exciting new projects such as the 2021 container project that will provide another huge blessing for our ministries and the local community.

As the year draws to an end & the Christmas season is upon us, we have had many people ask what they can do to bless us during this season as we are once again far from family & friends. The reality is that we have already been so blessed. The Lord has provided for us in amazing ways & we are so grateful for the generosity which has been poured out for our family. In this season, you can bless us is by helping us to bless our neighbors here in Mozambique. Your donation to the audio Bible, compassionate care, and New Harvest Farm projects allow us to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our local community to bless our neighbors and open up opportunities to bring hope and life. Please visit our web page to give to audio Bibles, Compassionate Care, or New Harvest Farm: <https://www.rca.org/global-mission/missionaries/chad-dara-vanden-bosch/>.

We recognize this has been a challenging year for you as well. We have been praying for the United States as we’ve watched from afar the struggles that you all have been facing. We know and trust that the Lord keeps us bound together through prayer—what a blessing that is. Please hear our deep concern for the challenges and changes this holiday season brings for everyone. We appreciate your generous support, prayers, and concern despite having difficulties closer to home. We find hope in the fact that every day that passes brings us closer to “freedom,” whether in regards to our adoption or the global pandemic. We look forward to when we can visit in person and share our family with you. May it be so in 2021!

In Christ,

The Vanden Bosch’s



JANUARY 2021 CALENDAR

Jan. 3	Remote Worship & Communion (Remember to have elements ready) 9:30am	Jan. 17	Remote Worship 9:30am Middle/High School Youth 5:30pm
Jan. 4	Finance Team 7pm	Jan. 20	Men's Bible Study 7am Staff Meeting noon WOW After Hours 7pm
Jan. 5	Deacon's Meeting 7pm	Jan. 21	WOW In The Morning 9:30am
Jan. 6	Men's Bible Study 7am WOW After Hours 7pm	Jan. 24	Worship 9:30am* Middle/High School Youth 5:30pm
Jan. 7	WOW in the Morning 9:30am Community Connections Team 7pm	Jan. 25	Worship Life Team 7pm
Jan. 10	Remote Worship & Installation of Elders & Deacons 9:30am Middle/High School Youth 5:30pm	Jan. 27	Men's Bible Study 7am WOW After Hours 7pm
Jan. 12	Consistory 7pm	Jan. 28	WOW In The Morning 9:30am
Jan. 13	Men's Bible Study 7am Care Closet By Appointment WOW After Hours 7pm	Jan. 31	Worship 9:30am* Middle/High School Youth 5:30pm
Jan. 14	WOW In The Morning 9:30am		

*Watch for updates regarding worship status

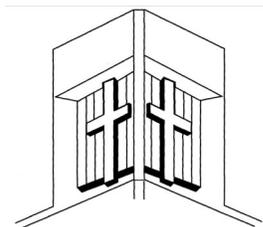
When In-Person Worship Services and Programs resume, please remember that if the National Weather service issues a weather WARNING, all services/programs at Trinity are cancelled. If Holland Public schools are closed due to inclement weather, we are closed.

January Birthdays

Rick Dykstra	1/1	Winnie Welton	1/12	Jim Simmons	1/24
Kathy Helmus	1/2	Dick Boss	1/13	George Jacob	1/25
Ruth Klungle	1/4	Sonnet Quinn	1/13	Colton Breuker	1/27
Dave Tanis	1/4	Elsie Kossen	1/14	Marge Kleis	1/28
Ryan Breuker	1/10	Zach Hamilton	1/15	Tiffany Shull	1/29
Pat Trevino	1/11				

January Anniversaries

Ed & Marlene Plaggemars 1/21



Trinity Reformed Church

712 Apple Avenue Holland, MI 49423

Phone: (616) 396-6526

www.trinityrc.org info@trinityrc.org

TRINITY STAFF

Rev. Phil Quinn, Co-Pastor/Director of Children, Youth & Young Adult Ministries	phil@trinityrc.org
Rev. Deb Yurk, Co-Pastor/Pastor of Senior Adult Ministry & Care	deb@trinityrc.org
John Taylor, Worship Arts Director	john@trinityrc.org
Hope Ward, Assistant Treasurer	hope@trinityrc.org
Barb Long, Secretary	barb@trinityrc.org
Lauren Garza, Custodian	lauren@trinityrc.org
Jim Allen, Facilities Coordinator	jhallen_48@yahoo.com

2021 TRINITY CONSISTORY

Elders

Gregg Harper
 John Houting
 Bob Koning
 Dianne Moker
 Dave Tanis
 Anne VanderZiel

Deacons

Kelly Brink
 Jeanne Dannenberg
 Neil DeBoer
 Benji Garza
 Rob Harrington
 Steve Lundy