



THE MESSENGER



19251 North Tamiami Trail,
North Fort Myers, FL 33903
Phone: 239-567-2246

Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church

April 2026 Issue 3
Website: www.htpc-nfm.org
E-mail: htpcsecretary@gmail.com

Living for Christ through Worship, Discipleship, Service and Fellowship



- April 2 Hennie Oostema
- April 2 Eva Ferrell
- April 3 Keith Burington
- April 7 Ruth Rickard
- April 8 Carol Herbert
- April 12 Barry Bowers
- April 14 Norman Jones
- April 16 Nancy Rad
- April 20 Janet Keirn
- April 22 Pat Colucci
- April 23 Jim Lavin
- April 24 Paula Dykstra
- April 25 Vinod Gnanaraj

Did we miss your special day?
Please let us know by calling
239-567-2246
or email us at
htpcsecretary@gmail.com



Having a Birthday This Month?

Why not celebrate the many
blessing in your life and be a
blessing to Holy Trinity, too?

**Contribute to the
Birthday Fund
to help us pay for
SPECIAL PROJECTS**

**** Suggested donation is
\$1.00 per year of age.**

Dear HTPC family,



I trust this message would find you in the blessed hope that we have through Jesus Christ our Lord. I praise God for the various opportunities we had as a church during this Lenten season for collective reflection and spiritual renewal. I appreciate the organizers, volunteers, and participants for making the Lenten Soup Supper Fellowship and Worship services a blessing for all. As we are beginning this month with the Holy Week, I want to share with you a few thoughts on this important week of the liturgical calendar.

The events that happened in the life of Jesus during the last week of his ministry on earth, which we commemorate as the Holy Week, summarize different facets of human life. The Palm Sunday reminds us of people's aspirations for a redeemer. The crowd which cheered for Jesus and shouted 'Hosanna,' aspired for freedom from the oppressive Roman empire, and hoped that Jesus would be their political messiah. Like them, people around the world are still aspiring for freedom from oppressive regimes, political tyrants, and unjust socio-economic structures that keep crushing their hopes and dreams. We still look for political messiahs to fix these issues, while the root of the problem is Sin for which we need the Savior.

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday remind us of human susceptibility to sin. The betrayal of Judas for 30 silver coins, speaks for the lure of money over loyalty to Jesus. Peter's denial reminds us of the power of fear to sway us from identifying ourselves with Jesus. The false accusations of the Jewish religious hierarchy and the fake trial of Pontius Pilate speak for the lure of power and positions over faithfulness to God, morals and justice. The crucifixion of the innocent Son of Man is the perfect display of the cruelty and depravity that humans are capable of. Yet, the crucified Christ is the ultimate demonstration of the depth of God's love and mercy towards humankind. And Easter is the definitive display of the power of God to bring life out of death-dealing situations, and victory over sin and all forces of evil. I hope and pray that your meditation on the events that happened on the final week of Jesus' ministry on earth will draw you closer to him in love, gratitude and commitment to serve God and people. Please plan to join with your friends and family in all the special services planned in our church for the Holy Week, including the Palm Sunday Musical Worship service at 5 pm. May the Risen Lord, who visited the fear-filled disciples behind closed doors and declared, "Peace be with you," keep you in perfect peace.

Happy Easter!
Pastor Vinod





MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
APRIL 2, 2026
5:00 PM

*Easter Services
Of
Celebration*

April 5, 2026

8:30 AM
And
10:30 AM



Prayer Chain Warriors

You are being upheld in our thoughts and supported with our prayers. May knowing this give you strength to face the future.

- Beverly Smith 724-654-2347
- Kelly Dickey 239-785-7659
- Bill Joles 704-813-0835
- Ann Sosa 239-201-8582
- Nancy Rad 239-731-1204
- Wilma Jenkins 239-841-0654
- Ruth Rickard 610-468-5626

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

April 14, 2026, 8:30 a.m.

Venue: Mel's Diner

(just west of the intersection of Pine Island and Del Prado)

Please join us both for conversation and food (individually paid for and ordered off the menu).

So that the restaurant knows how large a space to prepare for us, please call the church office by noon on April 13 at 239-567-2246 or text Bill Doyle at 651-245-8149 to let us know you intend to join

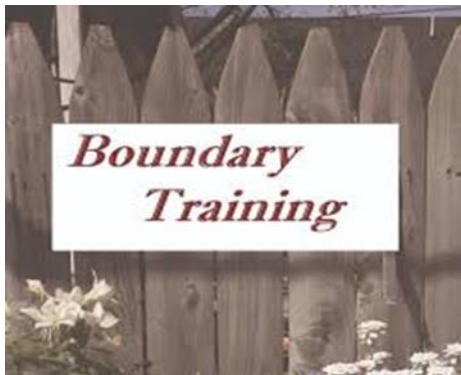


Food Drive April 20, 2026 9:00 - Noon Drive Up - Drop Off

Donations of non-perishable food items (including dog food) will be given to All Souls Food Pantry for distribution through the Harry Chapin Food Bank.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO FEED THE HUNGRY

MEET THE NEED SUNDAY IS APRIL 19



BOUNDARY TRAINING

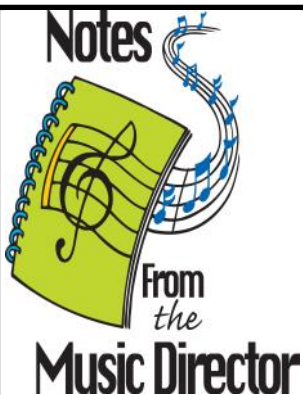
Led by

Rev. Melana Scruggs

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

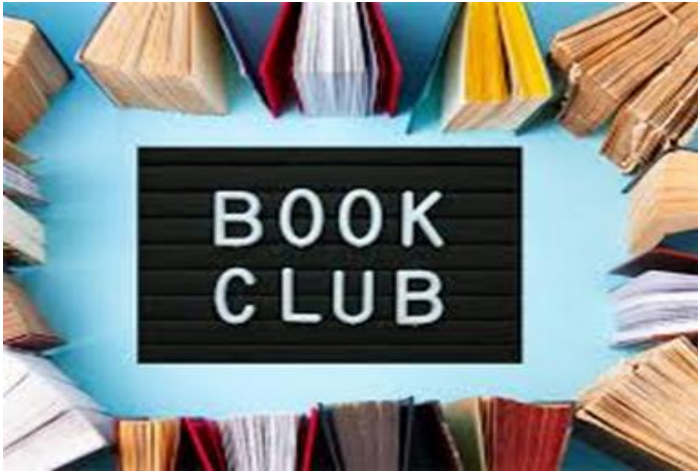
11:00-12:30 pm

In the Sanctuary



I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all members of the Music Department for their dedication and commitment over the past year. We are currently seeking new choir members. The ability to read music is not required... we believe you will find participation both enjoyable and fulfilling. Rehearsals take place each Thursday at 4 pm.

The Music Department remains devoted to ensuring that Sunday services continue to feature engaging and spiritually enriching music in the months ahead, fostering an atmosphere of praise and worship to our Lord Jesus Christ. *Blessings, Paul*



Join us for an hour of fellowship and discussion of the book chosen for the month. This group is for anyone who likes to read and we have an entertaining discussion narrated by Amy Cottrell.

Join us by zoom on the Third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Contact office for link.

The next Zoom meeting will be on

Tuesday, April 21
7:00 pm

Prayer List

Pat Frantz
Patrick Bapst
Bev Smith
Irene Snyder
June Tillson
Margaret Lavin
Jim Lavin
Rick Sanders
Nancy Walker
Robin Elmassia
Bruce Hirschlein
Kelly Lichtenhahn
Scott Mergenthaler

If you have loved ones or concerns to be added to our prayers, please notify the church office. We'd also love to hear about your joys! Please keep this list on your side table or night stand and include these folks in your daily prayers



Effective Sunday, May 3rd through Sunday, October 25
We will be holding ONE Worship Celebration on
Sundays at 9:30 AM as a combined summer worship

OUTREACH/FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Please continue to visit the Gathering Place following the 8:30 and 10:30 AM service each Sunday. Coffee, tea and snacks will be waiting your arrival. **Invite visitors** to stop by and take the time to get to know members of the congregation who you may not know.

Wear your name badge, if you already have one. It is nice to greet each other by name.

The new members to our congregation will be introduced next month. Please make them feel welcome and introduce yourself to them.



WHAT IS PER CAPITA?

The definition of Per Capita is: “relating or applied to each person.” Each year Peace River Presbytery suggests an amount that each member of Holy Trinity contributes. This year \$69.59 is suggested as a one-time donation to support the greater missions of our faith.

Our per capita goes towards the mission of supporting congregations, connecting disciples in missions, and enabling us to be a body of Christ together. Our church Session supports this mission.

Your gift supports the administration and ministries of councils above Session (Peace River Presbytery, Synod of South Atlantic, and the General Assembly). Some of the valuable ministries under the direction of these councils include:

- ☑ Church Leadership Connection (recently used by the Pastor Nominating Committee).
- ☑ Mission Partners (including Mision Peniel).

We ask you to prayerfully consider supporting this mission by a one-time give of \$69.59. That is just \$5.80 a month or \$1.34 a week. If you cannot give this full amount, any gift is always appreciated. Please memo your gift as “Per Capita”.

Respectfully, 2026 Finance Committee

Worship Assistants for April:

LITURGISTS

April 5	8:30	Keith Burington
	10:30	Carol Herbert
April 12	8:30	Vera Day
	10:30	Candace Forslund
April 19	8:30	Pam Joles
	10:30	Nita Carsley
April 26	8:30	Luanne Putnam
	10:30	Mary Ann Hudson

USHERS/GREETERS

8:30	Judy DeLonge & Ralph Jeka
10:30	Len & Nita Carsley/Dave Herbert
8:30	Sandy Nelson & Dave Ciochetto
10:30	Len & Nita Carsley/Dave Herbert
8:30	Lori Hoch & Ruth Rickard
10:30	Len Carsley Carsley/Dwight Mutschler
8:30	Elizabeth Morris & Linda Morrison
10:30	Len & Nita Carsley

Qualified Charitable Contributions (QCD)

March 2026

HTPC

What

The IRS has made available to eligible U.S. taxpayers (those who have an IRA and are 70 ½ or older) a means of making tax-advantaged contributions (QCD) from IRAs to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations such as our church, HTPC. Compared to making donations from a bank account via cash or check, use of QCDs by eligible taxpayers *will likely reduce taxes for those who take the standard deduction.*

The intent of this document is (1) to inform HTPC attendees about this potential opportunity and (2) to give comparative examples.

What is a QCD?

A QCD is a tax-free distribution from an IRA to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, such as our church. The QCD counts toward one's required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year.

This document assumes readers satisfy the following three criteria. Those who do not should consult a tax advisor about this strategy's usefulness in their particular circumstances.

1. You take the standard deduction.
2. You have an IRA.
3. You are 70 ½ years old or older on the day you make a QCD from your IRA.

How does one request/create a QCD?

By either (1) filling out a form from your IRA custodian or (2) asking the custodian to do it for you.

Are there limitations for QCDs?

You may give as much as you desire up to \$111,000 per person. There is no practical limit on how many QCD contributions/year you may make you may give to as many qualified nonprofits as you desire.

Disclaimer: This document should not be construed as financial advice for your particular circumstances. It is up to each individual to check with their tax advisors to determine the advisability of this opportunity for them.

Examples

The models below are based upon 2026 tax tables for married couples filing jointly. Case 1 illustrates the tax savings for giving via QCD rather than cash/check for a couple with a gross income of \$50,000 and charitable contributions of 10% = \$5000. Case 2 changes the gross income to \$100,000 with charitable contributions of 10% = \$10,000.

QCD contributions are tax advantaged because the IRS allows such contributions to be deducted as a separate line item in addition to the standard deduction while cash/check contributions are included in the standard deduction of \$32,200 and thus cannot be deducted as a separate line item.

Note that for cases 1b and 2b, the taxable income is less than in cases 1a and 2a by the amount of charitable giving, \$5,000 and \$10,000 respectively. Thus the tax advantage for cases 1b and 2b. Keep in mind that congress can eliminate this almost too good to be true, "double dip" benefit at any time.

Models

	Case 1a	Case 1b	Case 2a	Case 2b
	Cash Gifts	QCD Gifts	Cash Gifts	QCD Gifts
income from IRA/RMD	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
all other income	40,000	40,000	90,000	90,000
Total Income	50,000	50,000	100,000	100,000
standard deduction	32,200	32,200	32,200	32,200
charitable giving	5,000	5,000	10,000	10,000
Taxable income	17,800	12,800	67,800	57,800
Tax Brackets	Tax calc case 1a	Tax calc case 1b	Tax calc case 2a	Tax calc case 2b
10%: 0 - 24,800	1780	1280	2480	2480
12%: 24,801 - 100,800			5160	3960
Total Tax	1780	1280	7640	6440
Tax Savings		500		1200
% Tax Reduction		28.09%		15.71%

Information Session

The church is willing to offer a no cost information session led by elder Bill Doyle and elder/finance-committee chair Len Carsley for those who might be interested in learning more through a short presentation and Q&A time on April 8 at 2 pm. If interested, please add your name to the signup sheet available in the narthex. Thank you.

Notes from Session

The Session met on Tuesday, March 17. There was a quorum with eight members present plus Pastor Vinod, Moderator. Some highlights of the meetings were:

- The Financial Report at the end of February was presented, showing the General Operating Fund Income as \$60,315.09 and Expenses as \$32,781.18 leaving an overage of \$27,533.91 for the month.
- Elders Vera Day and Janet Daly gave a short report on the February 19, 2026 Presbytery Meeting in Bradenton.
- Per Capita costs were discussed and it was decided that the congregation should be made aware of this money that the church has to pay to the Presbytery for each member and they should be given the opportunity to pay their portion.
- A Membership Matters class is being held with four people seeking to become new or affiliate members. They will be received into membership on Easter Sunday.
- Deacon moderator, Betty Robertson, reported on the calls made by the Deacons and Care Angels. Bev Smith has requested to become a Care Angel and will be assigned the new members joining the church in April.
- Presbyterian Women held a successful Purse Bingo in March and collected over 2000 Diapers for Healthy Start. Men's Health Kits will be assembled at the April 14 meeting.
- Building & Grounds Committee will be having a clean-up day on Sat. March 28 to clear out as much debris as possible from the drainage ditch next to the church.
- Mission Chair, Vera Day reported that they are looking for a Christian charity that cares for children to add to their mission giving,
- Christian Education reviewed the Ignite series and asked Karen and Bill Doyle to continue the series for five weeks in January-February, 2027. That will be followed by the Soup/Suppers with a skit for Lent. The Craft Fair is still being reviewed. The Palms Senior Living Facility is under new management and has been renamed American House. Children's Sunday School is being held from 9:45-10:15am in Room 2 led by Pam Joles.

It has been a very busy season and the Session has worked hard through their Committees and supporting the other groups of the church in bringing new and varied opportunities to share fun, food and fellowship with the congregation and the community. We welcome your feedback on these programs and encourage you to continue to invite friends and neighbors to worship with us.

The ruling elders on Session are: Linda Green-Morrison, Ginger Mastrangelo, Scotty Robertson, Dwight Mutschler, Bill Doyle, Sue Clark, Vera Day, Len Carsley, Mary Ann Hudson and Janet Daly, Clerk. Contact any one of us with your comments, questions or concerns.

Yours in His service,

Janet Daly, Clerk of Session



Presbyterian Women's Recent Handbag Bingo Event! Everyone had fun and many diapers were donated to help mothers in need.



Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church would like to remind everyone of our **Church Website**, www.htpc-nfm.org

Want to see the latest sermons? Simply go to YouTube.com and search "Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church North Fort Myers." The video services are also on the main link of the church website. Clicking on "Sunday Worship Videos" brings up a menu by date.

You can also visit us on Facebook!

ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR ~ WHAT FUN!



The Lenten Soup Suppers & Skits...



Were enjoyed by so many...

**And now the Lenten Season
Is coming to a close....**



**And we want to say “thank you” to
everyone who helped make these
events a great success!**

**We look forward to the next
Lenten Season!**

CHURCH STAFF:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Rev. Vinod Gnanaraj | Pastor |
| Mr. Paul Brewer | Music Director |
| Ms. Joyce McCabe | Admin Assistant |
| Mrs. Tracy Andrews | Bookkeeper |
| Mr. Dennis Daley | Sound Booth/Maintenance |

Office Hours: Mon-Thur 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
(please call for an appointment (239) 567-2246)

HOLY TRINITY EVENTS CALENDAR ~ APRIL 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:30 Bible Study Via Zoom	2 12:00pm Christian Education Committee 4:00pm Choir Rehearsal 5:00 Maundy Thursday Service	3 GOOD FRIDAY	4 HOLY SATURDAY
5  Communion Sunday EASTER SERVICES OF CELEBRATION 8:30 Praise Worship 9:45 Children's Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Worship	6 1:00 Deacons and Care Angels Meeting	7 1:00pm Outreach & Fellow- ship Committee CR#4	8 9:30 Bible Study Via Zoom 2:00QCCD Information Session	9 1:00 Bible Study at The American House 4:00pm Choir Rehearsal	10	11
12 Eastertide Services 8:30 Praise Worship 9:30 Children's Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Worship	13 9:00 Missions Committee 10:00 Finance Committee	14 8:30 Men's Breakfast at Mel's Diner 2:00 Presbyterian Women	15 9:30 Bible Study Via Zoom	16 4:00pm Choir Rehearsal	17	18
19 8:30 Praise Worship 9:30 Children's Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Worship Meet the Need Sunday	20 9:00am Food Drive: Drive Up - Drop Off	21 10:00am Session Meeting 11:00-12:30 Boundary Training In Sanctuary led by Rev. Melana Scruggs 7:00pm Book Club On Zoom	22	23 1:00 Bible Study at the American House 4:00pm Choir Rehearsal	24	25
26 8:30 Praise Worship 9:30 Children's Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Worship	27	28	29	30 4:00pm Choir Rehearsal		