



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

THE MESSENGER

Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church



December 2025 Issue 12
Website: www.htpc-nfm.org
E-mail: htpcsecretary@gmail.com

Living for Christ through Worship, Discipleship, Service and Fellowship



3rd Dennis Daley
7th Janet Renninger
10th Andrea Helms
11th Ed Hall
13th Jack Balentine
16th Marley Weightman
16th Paul Brewer
17th June McDonnell
19th Jerry Strohmenger
22nd Don Kamsch
23rd Joyce Sigler

Did we miss your special day?
Or, do we have it listed incorrectly?
PLEASE let us know by calling the
church office: 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 and friends,

I hope this message finds you in the blessed hope we have through Jesus Christ our Lord. Though we are still in the season of Advent, if your heart and mind are gravitating towards Christmas, I get it. The carols played on radio stations, Christmas decorations around us, and the advertisements for Christmas programs in our community and beyond, create a spirit of joy and festivity which makes it impossible not to think of Christmas as soon as December begins. Amidst the excitement and busyness of this season, it would be a wonderful spiritual practice to take a few moments each day between now and Christmas to pause and reflect on why Christmas is important to you.

Christmas is important to me because it reminds me that the God I worship is not a distant spiritual entity but one who shares in my experiences. I know this because, on the first Christmas day, the Godhead took human form and came into the world as a vulnerable baby to share in the pain and suffering of humanity caught up in the quagmire of sin and despair. Unlike the divine incarnations mentioned in other religious traditions and epics who saved their devotees through heroic acts, my God lived on the earth for thirty-three and a half years and shared the joys and hardships of human life. Above all, he offered himself as a sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins. He suffered a violent death for the redemption of humanity. He rose from the dead on the third day. He reigns as the Sovereign Lord, because of which I, and everyone who believes in him, have everlasting hope and eternal life.

I would love to hear from you why Christmas is important for you. In case you or someone you love is dealing with sickness, sorrow or grief, I pray that Jesus, our Emmanuel, may give you and your loved ones the assurance of his love, healing, comfort, peace and hope.

Thank you for being a faithful member of the Holy Trinity Church in the past 11 months of this year and enriching the life and ministry of our church family by sharing your time, talent and treasure. During this season, let us continue to spread the love and goodness of Jesus to those in our communities and beyond through our acts of kindness, words of love, and genuine smile.

Apart from the meaningful worship services for the season of Advent, various committees of our church have planned special programs all through this month. Please take a look at the calendar and plan to invite a friend to join with you for these special events.



I wish you a blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas.

Yours in Christ's service,
Pastor Vinod
(Rev. Vinod I. Gnanaraj)



If you would like to contact Pastor Vinod, you may email him directly at pastorvinod.htpc@gmail.com.



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
Ann Sosa	239-201-8582
Nancy Rad	239-731-1204
Wilma Jenkins	317-496-9287
Nancy Walker	239-841-0654
Ruth Rickard	610-468-5626

If you would like to join our Prayer Chain Warriors please call or text Kelly Dickey at 239-785-7659.



I'm truly at a loss for words to express my gratitude. Over the past six weeks, Scotty and I have faced some challenging health issues. The cards, kind wishes, food, flowers, and above all, your prayers have been incredible and have helped us through this difficult period. We deeply appreciate your support and feel blessed to be part of such a wonderful church family. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.

Betty Robertson



Pat Frantz	Gavin Hewitt
Bev Smith	Scott Mergenthaler
Irene Snyder	Ken & Aileen Reese
June Tillson	Paul Clarcq
Kelly Lichtenhahn	Margaret Lavin
Glenn Tointon	Wanda Kruse
Jack Sabol	



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

JOY
to the world

From Holy Trinity Presbyterian Women

Let's celebrate the joy of this Christmas Season with lunch together on

Tuesday, December 9th ~ at noon

No need to bring anything...just a smile and your holiday spirit!

A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex. There is no charge for this lunch but we need to know how to plan. We have some fun entertainment and a surprise dessert!



New Christmas Tradition

Beginning **December 1st** read one chapter of the book of Luke in the Bible each evening.

There are 24 chapters.



On Christmas Eve you will have read an entire account of Jesus's Life and wake up Christmas morning knowing **WHO** and **WHY** we celebrate!

Food Drive

December 15, 2025

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.



**Meet the Need Sunday
Is December 14**

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING
TO FEED THE HUNGRY**

As the snowbirds continue to arrive, we invite one and all to join our choir. Choir is lots of fun, rewarding and reading music is not required. Choir practice is at 4 pm on Thursdays. The choir will be singing beautiful Advent anthems in December.

On December 24th we will be having our Christmas Eve services at 5 pm, contemporary, and 7 pm, traditional. What great worship services to share with your friends, the birth of Jesus Christ! Blessings! *Paul Brewer, Music Director*



Poinsettias may be reserved in memory or in honor of loved ones, or for a special occasion!

Each poinsettia is \$15.00. Please sign up in the narthex and print clearly the names of your loved ones.

The last day to order a poinsettia is Sunday, December 14th.

ELDERS & DEACONS

**ORDINATION
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7**
during the
10:30 Service

DEACONS & CARE ANGELS

Soup & Sandwich Luncheon
December 10
1:00 pm



Staff & Session

Luncheon

Wednesday, December 17

12:00 Noon



**Christmas Treat and Carol Singing
December 14 @ 3:00 pm.**

Treat will be in the Fellowship Hall. This will be followed by Carol Singing in the Sanctuary

Everyone invited to this joyous Christmas Event



Christmas Eve Services of Candlelight & Music

5:00 Contemporary

7:00 Traditional



SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, December 11, 2025 at 5pm in Fellowship Hall

One night only!

A soup & bread supper with a special drama presentation for Advent.

Bring a friend!

Sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

- FREE of CHARGE -

Sponsored by the Christian Education and Worship Committees



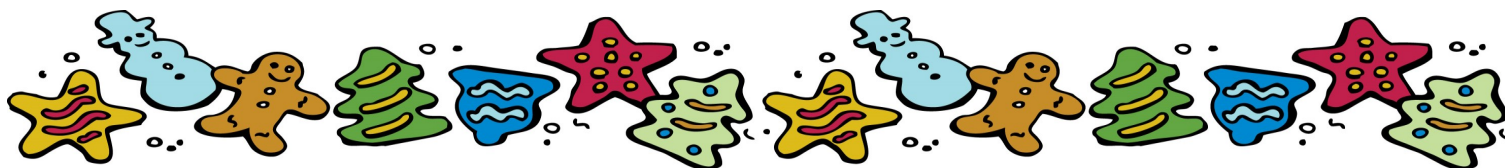
CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING DECEMBER 21



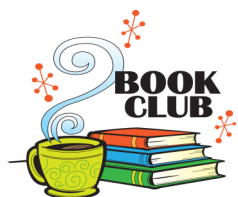
Presbyterian Women



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9th



BOOK CLUB



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.

This month's book is "*The Christmas Bookshop*" by Jenny Colgan

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 December 16, 2025 at 7:00 PM.

Notes from Session

The Session met on Tuesday, November 18. There was a quorum with 6 members present plus Pastor Vinod, Moderator. Scottie Robertson, Chair of Building & Grounds and Marie Joseph, Bookkeeper were also present.

Some highlights of the meetings were:

The Session met with the nominees for Elders and Deacons in 2026. Bill & Pam Joles, Lori Hoch, Karen Doyle and Sheryl Robieson as Deacons; Dwight Mutschler, Bill Doyle and Scotty Robertson as Elders. Elizabeth Morris as a Deacon was not able to attend. The nominees were introduced followed by a question and answer time, then dismissed. They will be ordained and installed on Sunday, December 7 at the 10:30 service.

Pastor Vinod reported that he just returned from a renewal conference in Little rock, AK, informed and energized.

The Clerk of Session, Janet Daly, reminded the Committee Chairpersons that the Annual Reports are due in the office before Dec. 16 Session meeting. The Annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 4, 2026 at 9:45am.

The Treasurer presented the financial report showing the General Operating Fund Income as \$19,150.68 and Expenses as \$24,472.93, leaving a shortage of \$5,322.25 at the end of October.

A generous gift was donated and Session voted to place it in the General Operating Fund.

The Finance Committee Chair, Len Carsley, presented the 2026 budget for Holy Trinity. After discussion a revision was made and approved. The budget was approved as revised.

A Committee and Personal Expenditures Policy was presented by Finance and approved to become part of the Administrative Handbook.

Deacon moderator, Betty Robertson, welcomed the new Deacons and is currently organizing new flock lists for the Deacons and Care Angels. She reminded everyone that the Deacons meet the second Wednesday of the month at 1pm.

Building & Grounds, Scotty Robertson, reported that a shampooer and shampoo were purchased and the spots treated and the carpet shampooed in the Gathering Place. The Committee is working on clearing the ditch by the side of the church.

Christian Education and Worship Committees will host a Soup/Supper with a drama reading on Thursday, November 20, 2025 and encouraged all to attend. C.E. welcomed Pam Joles as a new member of the committee.

Outreach/Fellowship Committee Co-Chair, Sue Clark, sent a new schedule for hosting the Gathering Place on Sunday morning. The Committee planned the light suppers and theme for the video series on Thursday evenings in January & February.

A reminder that the Cybersecurity class for our congregation will be held today and the same class offered again on Tuesday, January 6 from 10-11:30am.

The Worship Committee Chair, Mary Ann Hudson, reported that the Committee discussed extending the time of one service through November next year. The numbers will be monitored before a decision is made.

The Personnel Committee Chair, Janet Daly, presented the revised Accountable Reimbursement Policy, which pertains mainly to the pastor. Session approved the policy to be put in the Administrative Handbook.

As the year draws to a close, the work of the Session continues, planning for the New Year and new leaders to take their place on the Board of Deacons and Session. Some new programs will be introduced and you are encouraged to bring your friends to join us at the many opportunities for fellowship at Holy Trinity, including worship.

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

Yours in His service,
Janet Daly, Clerk of Session



All Messenger Articles for the next edition are due by the 15th of the Month

Ushers/Greeters

8:30 A.M. Service

Dec 7 - Sandi Nelson & Dave Ciochetto
 Dec 14 - Bill & Joyce Bryant
 Dec 21 - Betty & Scotty Robertson
 Dec 24 - Judy DeLonge & Ralph Jeka
 Dec 28 - Chuck & Debbie Vitale



8:30 A.M. Service

Dec 7 - Vera Day
 Dec 14 - Janet Daly
 Dec 21 - Sue Clark
 Dec 28 - Mary Kay Tointon



New shoes (and socks) are needed for the children of migrant workers in Im-mokalee.

Please help by bringing shoes and socks (either boy or girl and any size). Place them under the Christmas tree in the narthex.

We hope to take pictures of the children receiving these gifts and will print them in our next newsletter for all to see.



CHURCH STAFF:

Rev. Vinod Gnanaraj	Pastor
Mr. Paul Brewer	Music Director
Ms. Joyce McCabe	Admin Assistant
Ms. Marie Joseph	Bookkeeper
Mr. Dennis Daley	Maintenance
Ms. Alissa Deeds	Sound Tech
Office Hours: Mon-Thur 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM	
(please call for an appointment (239) 567-2246)	



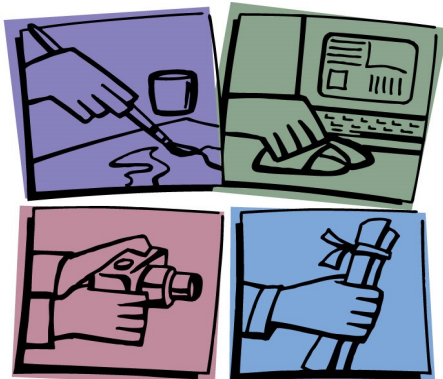
Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church would like to remind everyone of our **Church Website**, www.htpc-nfm.org

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.

HOLY TRINITY EVENTS CALENDAR

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 1:00 Outreach & Fellowship Committee	3 9:30 Bible Study on Zoom	4 12:00 Christian Education Committee 1:00 Worship Committee 4:00 Choir Rehearsal	5	6
7 Communion Sunday 8:30 Praise Service 10:30 Traditional Service (10:30 Service—Elders & Deacons Ordination) 2nd Sunday in Advent	8 10:00 Finance, Personnel & Missions Committee Meeting	9 Presbyterian Women Christmas Luncheon @ Noon	10 9:30 Bible Study on Zoom 1:00pm Deacons & Care Angels ~ Soup & Sandwich Meeting	11 5:00 AdventSimple Supper with Drama Reading 4:00 Choir Rehearsal	12	13
14 8:30 Praise Service 10:30 Traditional Service MEET THE NEED SUNDAY 3:00 10:45 Buildings & Grounds Committee 3:00 Christmas Treat and Carol Singing 3rd Sunday in Advent	15 Messenger Articles Due 9:00am Food Drive: Drive Up - Drop Off	16 10:00 Session Meeting 7:00 Book Club On Zoom	17 9:30 Bible Study on Zoom 12:00 Staff & Session Luncheon	18 4:00 Choir Rehearsal	19	20
21 8:30 Praise Service 10:30 Traditional Service <i>Christmas Joy Offering</i> 4th Sunday in Advent	22	23	24 5:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26	27
28 8:30 Praise Service 10:30 Traditional Service	29	30	31			



A NEW
YEAR & NEW
OPPORTUNITIES