

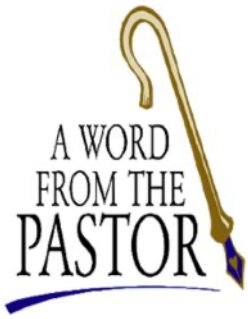
THE MESSENGER

Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church

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

November 2026 Issue 10
Website: www.htpc-nfm.org
E-mail: htpcsecretary@gmail.com

Living for Christ through Worship, Service and Fellowship



Dear HTPC family,

Greetings in Jesus' precious name. I hope this message finds you with Christ's joy and peace. Even though Thanksgiving is only in the last week of this month, November brings with it the joyful anticipation of family gathering around the Thanksgiving table. It is good to begin this month by preparing yourself to meaningfully celebrate Thanksgiving. You can do that by carving a few minutes out of your daily schedule to recall and jot down God's faithfulness to you and your loved ones over the last ten months. As a church, we have so much to be grateful for. Though ours is a senior congregation, I praise God for the energy and commitment that our staff, Elders, Deacons, Care Angels and members bring to every aspect of our church life. We have lively worship each Sunday, prayer and ice cream social on Tuesdays, Bible study on Wednesdays, Faith formation events planned for Thursdays, and fun activities like garden club, on-the-go events, bingo, and so on. God has enabled us to enjoy his love in the company of our church family, and share the same with less privileged people, both locally and globally, through our dynamic mission initiatives. We, indeed, have a lot to be grateful for as a church family.

One way to express our gratitude to God in this season is by making a pledge to support God's work in the upcoming year. You can pray and plan how you would like to financially support our ministries next year, and make your pledge on Stewardship Sunday, on November 8th. This is also a good time to think whether you would like to make a legacy gift to our church in honor of your loved ones. A legacy gift to our endowment funds will ensure that our church continues to shine as a beacon of Christ's love for decades to come.

We have several exciting events planned for this month. On Thursday, November 12, we will have the Thanksgiving Supper at 5 pm in our Fellowship Hall, followed by a skit. Please invite your friend or neighbor to come with you to simply enjoy the gift of being together. On November 15th, we will have a congregation meeting after the worship service to elect new ruling elders. The newly elected elders will be ordained and installed on November 29th during the worship service.

As a way of welcoming friends of our neighborhood to visit our church and get to know our ministries, the Christian Education and Outreach committees have planned a Holiday Craft Fair on Saturday, November 21. The Presbyterian Men will have a cookout for lunch with music that day. Please spread the word and join the fun.

As November closes, the church calendar will reset as we enter the Season of Advent on November 29th. We will shift our gaze to the coming of Christ as we light the first candle on our wreath. Keep all these events in your prayers, participate in them, and be blessed.
Happy Thanksgiving!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Vinod

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



SESSION RECAP

The Session met on Tuesday, October 20, 2026 at 10AM in the Library and on Zoom with Pastor Vinod, Moderator. There was a quorum present.

Some highlights of the meeting include:

- The Treasurer reported the finances for the month of October and YTD. We are currently $25,634.71 in the red. Hopefully that will look a little better by the end of the year.
- The Building and Grounds Committee made a recommendation to use Real A/C & Refrigeration, Inc. to replace the air conditioners. After negotiation, the cost will be $75,953.10. The work will start immediately after they receive a 50% deposit.
- Finance Committee presented the budget for 2027. After discussion it was referred back to the Committee to refigure to include salary increases for the staff. The Stewardship letter was sent out. The Session voted to have Commitment Sunday on November 8.
- A report on the October Presbytery meeting was given by Sue Clark. There is always interesting news from the Presbytery.
- The Clerk of Session presented fifteen names of members to be removed from the rolls. They will be contacted and asked if they want to remain on the rolls or not.
- Nominating Committee presented the names for nomination to Session for 2027-2028. They are Jack Balentine, Hal Copeland, Pam Joles and Betty Robertson. They will be voted on at a congregational meeting on Sunday, November 15 and will be ordained and installed at the November 29 worship service.
- Presbyterian Women made donations to Mision Peniel for toys for Christmas and the American Bible Society.
- Christian Ed. Committee highlighted the upcoming Holiday Craft Fair and Cookout on Saturday, November 21. The Thursday night supper in October was well attended.
- Outreach/Fellowship Committee reminded everyone of their responsibilities in the Gathering Place. There is a suggestion box in the Gathering Place for any suggestions from the congregation. A new Facebook page has been created for the church.
- Worship Committee reported that poinsettias will be delivered from the flower shop. Cost to be determined.
- Personnel Committee is looking for volunteers to cover specific jobs in the church office. Joyce will be retiring at the end of the year. A search is on to replace her ASAP so she can train them.
- Pastor Vinod made a visual presentation of the renovation of the chancel to accommodate the baby grand piano being donated by Paul Brewer. The Session approved this remodel with the work to be done by Jack Balentine.
- A HP computer was donated to replace the old Apple computer in the sound booth.

The ruling elders on Session are: Linda Green-Morrison, 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

MEET THE NEED SUNDAY



This month **November 15th** will be **Meet the Need Sunday**…the day before the Drive Up/Drop Off Food Drive scheduled for Monday, November 16th.

The most-needed items include canned veggies and fruits, soups, peanut butter and jelly, cereals, puddings, canned meats (tuna, salmon, chicken, ham, spam), macaroni and cheese, pasta, rice, beans, coffee, tea, fruit juices, pasta sauces and, of course, monetary donations are always welcome.

No glass and only non-perishable items, please!

We invite you to bring food donations to the worship service on Sunday, November 15th and deposit them in the large baskets in the Narthex or to the Drive Up/Drop Off Food Drive on November 16th!

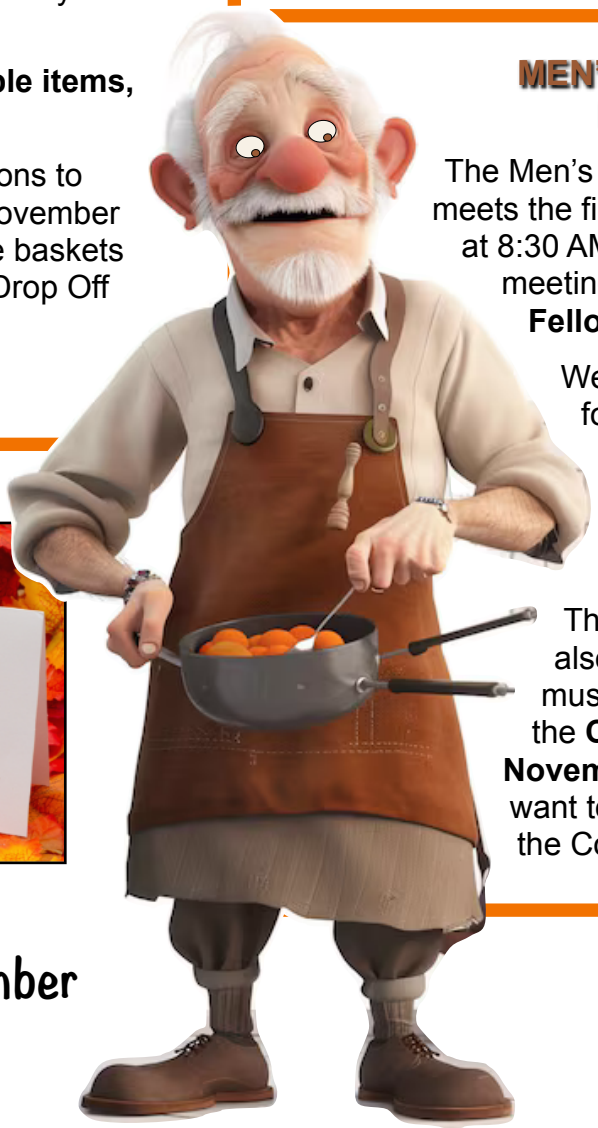
THANK YOU!

DRIVE UP/DROP OFF FOOD DRIVE

November 16th
9:00 AM - Noon

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



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

The Men's Fellowship Breakfast meets the first Saturday of the month at 8:30 AM. The **November 7th** meeting will be in the Church **Fellowship Hall**.

We need to know how much food to prepare; so, please text Bill Joles at billjoles@gmail.com to let us know you plan to attend.

The men of the church will also have a **Cookout** with music for the community at the **Craft Fair** on **Saturday, November 21st**. You do not want to miss the Craft Fair or the Cookout!



...just a reminder,
the time changes on November 1st. Reset your clocks.

MUSIC & WORSHIP



My sincere thanks to our Praise Team, band members and vocalists for their outstanding dedication and ministry throughout the summer. Your talent, commitment and heart for music have been a true blessing to our congregation.

We will be hard at work in November learning and preparing several new and popular praise songs that we have not done before. November will also be our final month of a single-service schedule until May.

Beginning in December, we will return to two Sunday worship services:
8:30 AM Praise Service
10:30 AM Traditional Service

Thank you again for your faithful service and willingness to lead God's people in worship.

Blessings to you all,

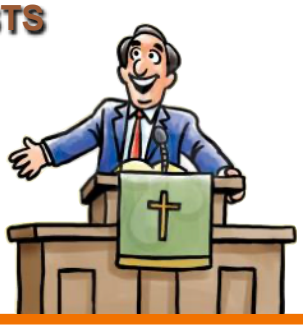
Paul Brewer

NOVEMBER GREETERS



November 1st Scotty & Betty Robertson
November 8th Dwight & Barbara Mutscher
November 15th Rolland and Sheryl Robieson
November 22nd Rolland and Sheryl Robieson
November 29th Dwight & Barbara Mutscher

OCTOBER LITURGISTS



November 1st Janet Daly
November 8th Andrea Helms
November 15th Darlene Sullivan
November 22nd Mary Ann Hudson
November 29th Carol Herbert

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Monday, November 9th at 2:00 PM
Fellowship Hall

The women of the church will gather in the Fellowship Hall for Handbag BINGO. See details on page 11.

OUTREACH/ FELLOWSHIP



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

The Outreach/Fellowship committee newsletter is available by request or can be viewed on the church bulletin board in the Educational Wing. It gives a snapshot of our activities. Send an email to Sue Clark at randsclark@verizon.net and place HTPC Outreach/Fellowship in the subject line.

A new Holy Trinity Facebook page has been started. If you are interested in working to enhance our page, please contact Sue Clark.

"The evangelization of the world waits not on the readiness of God but on the obedience of Christians."
Bill M. Sullivan

Walk by FAITH
NOT BY SIGHT

A FAITH STORY

Our Miracle House



I was either crazy, seeking an adventure, or...was it God calling? After only one year of marriage, my husband and I left the comforts of home and family to minister in a developing country for three years. When we returned to the U.S., I was amazed to see houses with huge lawns. Actually, they weren't really that large; it's just that in our crowded Taiwanese community, green grass did not exist. Since tap water was not safe to drink, we regularly had to carry home a 10-gallon plastic jug filled with drinking water from our school well. The jug sat strapped between us on our motorcycle or "family car." Now, driving in the Ohio countryside with no water buffalo, vending bicycles, or motorcycles definitely bordered on boring. Everything looked so different that I felt I'd been gone for a decade.

Beginning this new chapter of our lives both excited and frightened us. I was five months pregnant and our only means of support would be Bill's salary for teaching as a graduate assistant. I could definitely see hardship on the horizon. We had been unable to save regularly from our small missionary stipend and now we needed money for a car, a place to live, for food, and for medical costs to have a baby. The secular probability of meeting these needs was virtually zero. We needed a miracle! And the Lord was about to respond!

In anticipation of all this, I was constantly worrying about how we were going to make ends meet. The Lord kept telling me to praise Him and trust Him. But to me...filling our needs seemed like an insurmountable obstacle. I was forgetting Who owned everything and Who was in charge.

We could not find affordable housing. Then we had dinner with Bill's brother and girlfriend, with whom we shared our need for the Lord's provision. While she was not a Christian, she seemed interested both in our needs and in the ways God had worked in my life. Several weeks later she introduced us to Mrs. Schultz, an elderly widow who had a house for rent. The requested rent was much too high, so we said that the offer was beyond our means and thanked her and her new husband, a widower, for their time. As it now felt like a rental house was not to be, I was silently finding it difficult to praise and trust the Lord. Unexpectedly, Mrs. Schultz told us about the larger home in which she and her former husband had lived. She hadn't inspected it for a while and wanted to stop by and rest. Would we like to join her? So Bill's brother, his girlfriend, Mrs. Schultz, her new husband, Bill, and I trekked thirty yards to her previous home.

The landscaping, setting, and fully-furnished country house were beautiful. The house featured a small storage porch on the back and a wonderful, old-fashioned kitchen where I envisioned the many home-cooked meals the family had shared. The sunny dining room included a hutch displaying treasures collected over many years. A comfortable living room and two bedrooms completed the upper level. A basement provided a washing machine, a line to dry clothes, and a traditional root cellar.

After the tour, she questioned us about what we had been doing overseas and why we had no furniture. We shared our faith in Jesus and told her that after Bill completed his masters degree we might be called back overseas.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from Page 5)

Then, after talking about the 50 years of good memories she enjoyed in the house with her first husband, she suddenly exclaimed, “You know, I think the Lord would have me offer this home to you. Would $50 a month be too much to ask?” Her husband, visibly upset with such a “ridiculous” offer, almost fell off his chair. I responded with, “Thank you for being so kind. As with everything we do, we want to pray before making a decision.” After a day of seeking the Lord in prayer and thanking Him for His “just in time” gift, we accepted Mrs. Schultz’s generosity. We only stayed in the house one year. Our firstborn arrived in the fall and the next summer after Bill’s graduation, we headed back overseas to teach in Germany.

The story continues - full circle. As an adult, our daughter born in that home went back to Ohio to visit family. She stayed with Bill’s brother and wife (the girlfriend we met earlier). Even though my sister-in-law had not told me, God used the faith stories I had shared along with the testimony of the miracle house to help her come to faith in Jesus.

Now Glory be to God! By His mighty power at work within us, He is able to accomplish superabundantly more than we would ever dare ask or hope (Ephesians 3:20). Supernaturally, God provided more than abundantly for our every need with the gift of a completely furnished country home. Even more wonderful, His gift of salvation spilled over to my sister-in-law through our lifestyle of quiet commitment that said, “We will have to pray about it.” Sharing the Gospel verbally is vital to successful evangelism. But how we live our lives speaks just as clearly. It is in our daily attitude of love for one another and dependence on God in every situation that we are able to communicate a genuine, powerful presentation of Jesus.

Karen Doyle

MISSIONS

The Holidays are approaching quickly!

The Mission Committee would like you to remember the Sneaker and Sock Drive for Mision Peniel. We will be putting the tree up in the Narthex Thanksgiving weekend. Please consider purchasing socks and sneakers for the children (young and old). They are so appreciative and the need is great.



COMMUNICATION



Do you receive the Thursday Email Blast? If not, contact the church office and give your email address.

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

Want to see the latest sermons?
Go to YouTube.com and search “Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church North Fort Myers.” Video services are on the main link of the church website. Clicking “Sunday Worship Videos” brings up a date menu.

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.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday

2	Marty Renninger	10	Art Fredenburg
4	Pat Maxwell	13.	Hal Copeland
4	Don Hudson	14	David Gluck
6	Nancy Walker	15	Kelly Dickey
9	Mary Tointon	29	Pam Joles
10	Terry Walker	30	Colette Boswell

Did we miss your special day or do we have it listed incorrectly? **PLEASE** let us know by calling the church office at 239-567-2246 or email us at htpcsecretary@gmail.com.

PRAYER MEETING

Please consider joining our **TUESDAY PRAYER MEETING** in the church **Library** at **12:00 PM**, followed by **ice cream** in the Fellowship Hall. We have an informal, relaxing time as we pray for our church members and friends, then enjoy fellowship with one another. The Prayer Meeting is part of the Deacon's ministry.

Prayers are Being Answered



There is a large church calendar on the desk in the office.

the Gathering Place

The Gathering Place is located in the Educational Wing of the church, four doors down the hall from the Narthex on the right. It is a warm and welcoming space where fellowship and refreshments are offered after worship each Sunday.

Visitors and members of the congregation alike are invited to stop by, enjoy some refreshments and spend a few minutes visiting with Pastor Vinod, our church leadership and one another. We hope you'll join us and enjoy the fellowship!

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.

The group meets on Zoom the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. The next meeting will be on November 17, 2026. This month's book is *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi. Contact the church office for a Zoom link.



TREASURER

Starting this month, I will post a very condensed version of our financial status every month.

As of 30 September, we had an income of $294,443.47 with expenses totaling $320,078.18 leaving a negative balance of $25,634.71. These figures are year to date. The negative balance should shrink with the return of our snowbirds. As an added note, the work for our new air conditioning system for the main building will commence on 2 November 2026.



Thank you for your continued support.

God Bless.

Darlene Sullivan
Treasurer

$1.00 A WEEK



In the Narthex you will find a container in which to drop off $1.00 per week to help the hungry.

DEACONS & CARE ANGELS

The Care Angels and Deacons watch over the flock. They volunteer their time to call on brothers and sisters in Christ and offer a hand where needed. Some make home visits while others call. Often they send get well cards, remember birthdays, anniversaries and other holidays. There are no specific rules that they must follow other than checking in from time to time just to see how their flocks are doing.

They let the church know if prayers of healing are needed or prayers of joyful thanksgiving. Either way, they let the pastor know as well as the church office.

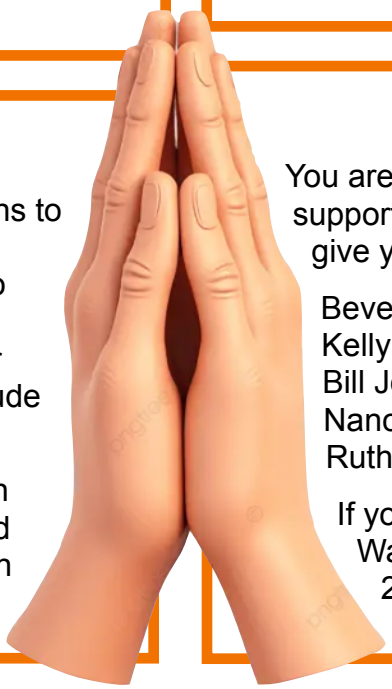


If you are currently not being called and you have no idea who your Care Angel or Deacon is, you can call the church office and they can assist you.

PRAYER LIST

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.

Jim & Margret Lavin
Irene Snyder
Scott Mergenthaler
Ken and Aileen Reese
Bev Smith
Mary Gold
June Tillson



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
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.



GARDENING CLUB

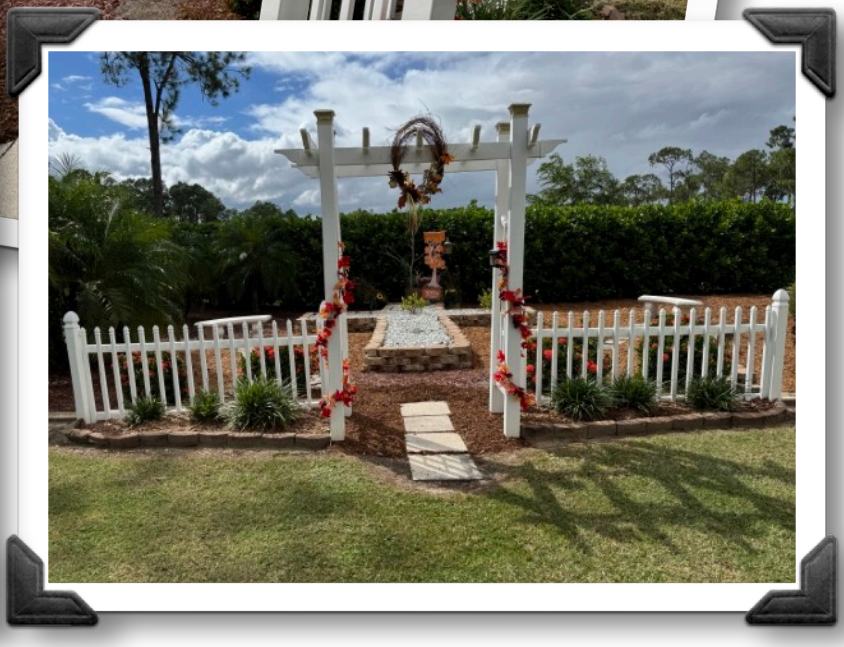
November 17th we will meet at 1:30 PM as a group to help care for the Prayer Garden. We will water, weed, educate and keep the Prayer Garden and Holy Trinity Grounds beautiful.

We will meet once a month for 30 to 60 minutes to replace flower arrangements. Eventually we can plan garden parties, plant sales, educational opportunities and a plant exchange for all you gardeners and, of course, always great fellowship.

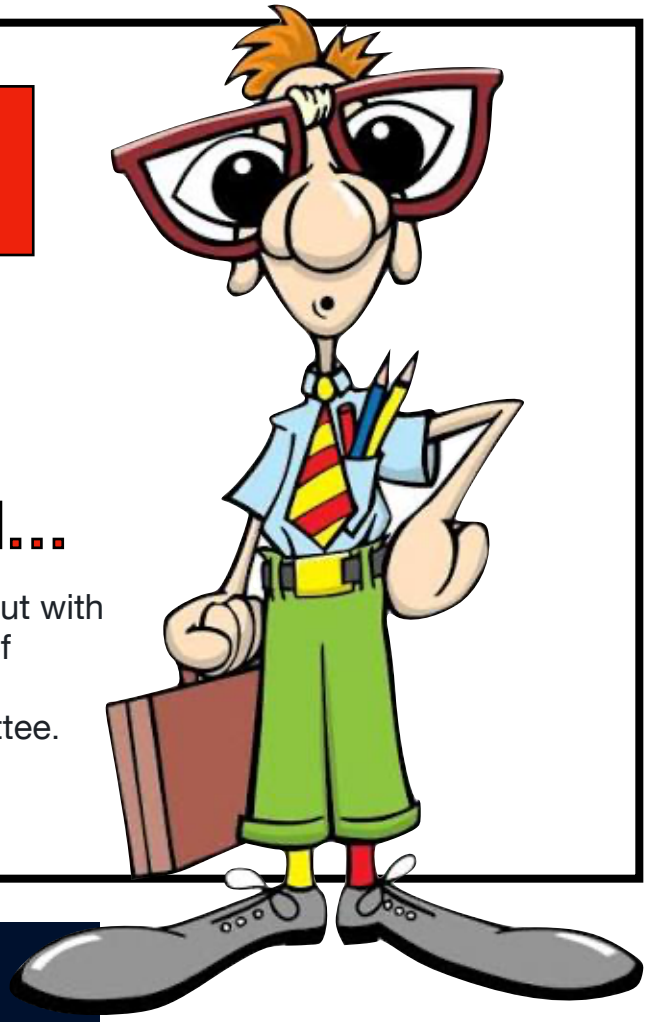
"Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them." Matthew 18:2.







Calling All Nerds



Your Expertise is Needed...

Holy Trinity is looking for people interested in helping out with our Technical Committee. If you have any knowledge of computers, network systems, camera systems or electronics, we would love to have you join our committee.

Contact Dwight Mutschler at 239-292-9269



...starting December 6th 2 Worship Services

8:30 AM Praise Service
10:30 PM Traditional Service

SERVICE of REMBERANCE

NOVEMBER 2nd Noon

A brief "Service of Remembrance of the Faithful Departed" will be held at our Memorial Garden on All Souls Day, November 2nd at noon. Please join, as we give thanks to God for the departed saints of our church. Please bring your own chairs.



Stay Tuned...

Upcoming FALL ACTIVITIES

October 15th, 5:00 PM
...er (heavy hor d'oeuvres) and a Skit
Sign-up to Bring Your Favorite Hor d'oeuvre

November 12th, 5:00 PM
Thanksgiving Dinner and a Skit
Meal Provided by the Church

December 10th, 5:00 PM
Christmas Dinner and Carols
Meal Provided by the Church

Of Course, There's Dessert

Looking for 3 Kitchen Helpers for Each Dinner
Please Sign-up in the Narthex

get ready for Christmas. . .

CRAFT FAIR & COOKOUT

November 21st
9:00 AM - 1:00

talented vendors
bake sale
cookout

Holy Trinity
19251 Tamiami Tr
N Ft Myers

CRAFT FAIR & COOKOUT

ANNUAL with

Cheeseburger or Hot Dog
Potato Salad & Baked Beans
Cookie & a Beverage

Cheesburger $10.00
Hot Dogs $8.00

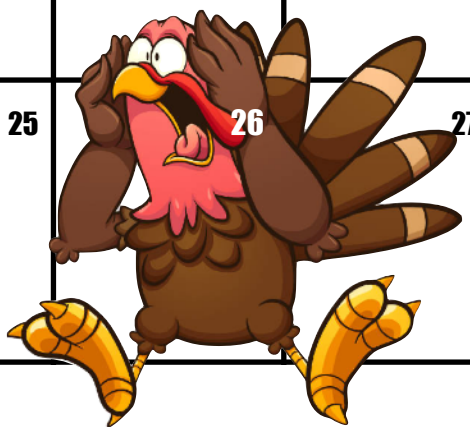
November 21st
9:00 AM - 1:30 PM
Holy Trinity
19251 N Tamiami Trail
N Ft Myers

HANDBAG BINGO

Monday, November 9th
2:00 PM
Fellowship Hall

ENTRY FEE
package of disposable diapers,
diapers will be donated to
Misión Peniel in Imokalee

1	**2**	**3** 12:00 PM Prayer Meeting/Ice Cream Social	**4** 9:30 AM Bible Study/Zoom	**5** 12:00 PM Christian Education Meeting 1:00 PM Worship Committee Meeting	**6**	**7** 8:30 AM Men's Fellowship Breakfast
8 Stewardship Sunday 8:30 AM Praise Team Practice 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Building and Grounds	**9** 10:00 AM Finance Committee Meeting 1:00 PM Deacons/ Care Angels Meeting 2:00 PM Handbag BINGO	**10** 9:00 AM Mission Committee Meeting 12:00 PM Prayer Meeting/Ice Cream Social	**11** 9:30 AM Bible Study/Zoom 1:00 PM Outreach/ Fellowship Committee Meeting	**12** 5:00 PM Thanksgiving Supper and Skit	**13**	**14**
15 8:30 AM Praise Team Practice 9:30 AM Worship 10:40 Congregational Meeting	**16** 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Drive in/Drop Off Food Collection	**17** 10:00 AM Session Meeting 12:00 PM Prayer Meeting/Ice Cream 1:30 PM Garden Club 7:00 PM Book Club	**18** 9:30 AM Bible Study/Zoom	**19**	**20**	**21**
22 8:30 AM Praise Team Practice 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 Hanging of the Greens	**23**	**24** 12:00 PM Prayer Meeting/Ice Cream Social	**25** 9:30 AM Bible Study/Zoom	**26**	**27**	**28**
29 First Sunday of Advent 8:30 AM Praise Team Practice 9:30 AM Worship Elders Ordination	**30** 1:00 PM American House Bible Study					



November 2026

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Vinod Gnanaraj - Pastor
Joyce McCabe - Office Administrator
Dennis Daley - Maintenance
Paul Brewer - Music Director
Marie Joseph - Bookkeeper
Alissa Deeds - Sound Booth

Office Hours: Monday -Thursday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
please call for an appointment 239-567-2246