



THE MESSENGER

Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church



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

October 2026 Issue 9
Website: www.htpc-nfm.org
E-mail: htpcsecretary@gmail.com

Living for Christ through Worship, Service and Fellowship

Dear HTPC family,

I hope this message finds you with hope and joy in our Lord Jesus Christ. After months of humidity and summer heat, October is a welcome transition into a pleasant season of the year. This month, our church calendar has several opportunities to connect and grow together. I want to encourage you to join in the upcoming fellowship events and deeply engage with our ministries.

The Wednesday Zoom Bible studies have resumed since last month. They are great opportunities for us to connect with one another midweek, no matter which part of the country we are in, and nourish our soul by delving into the word of God. The Bible study group at the senior-living facility "American House" will meet on the fourth Monday of the month. Anyone from our church is welcome to join. Friends and members of our church who live there will be pleased to see you. The Christian Education and the Outreach and Fellowship committees have planned a dinner and skit on October 15th. Please bring along your friends. Don't forget to sign up.

October is also the time of the year we focus on stewardship and stewardship renewal. It is time to consider how we want to dedicate our time, talents, and finances that God has entrusted to us for the expansion of His kingdom in the coming year. I invite you to join with me in praying for our church as we discern what God wants us to do individually and collectively to build His kingdom in our community. I believe that God has great things in store for us, and the Holy Spirit is fanning the flames of revival in our church to bring in a rich harvest.

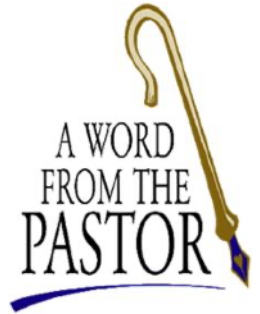
Thank you for your continued faith, generosity, and your love for one another. It is a joy and privilege to serve as your pastor. May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus this month and always.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Vinod

Rev. Vinod I. Gnanaraj

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



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.



MUSIC & WORSHIP



We look forward with joy to the return of our snowbirds. As our friends from up north journey back, we pray they bring a touch of cooler weather with them! We are all eager for beautiful months ahead, anticipating everything the Lord has in store for our church.

Blessings to you all,
Paul Brewer



SESSION RECAP

The Session met Thursday, September 15, 2026 at 10:00 AM in the Library and on Zoom. There was a quorum present plus Pastor Vinod, Moderator.

Some highlights of the meeting include:



- **Replacing the air conditioners** cooling the sanctuary and education wing - Fellowship Hall air conditioners need not be replaced at this time. Building & Grounds will review all bids and present to Session a recommendation. A motion was made and passed to use the funds from the Capital Improvement Fund and the Cell Tower Fund to finance this purchase and replace them with a "Keep it Cool" campaign.
- **Finance Committee** requested that Committees submit their budgets for 2027 by September 30.

• **Presbyterian Women** are planning fall activities including a Handbag BINGO.

- **Deacons and Care Angels** are making their calls and recommending prayers for those in need.
- **Mission Committee** submitted a report of all the missions the church supported in the past year.
- **Session** approved the motion by **Christian Education** to offer a Confirmation Class with the confirmands joining the church on Easter Sunday. The Committee highlighted the upcoming **Thursday Suppers** and **Craft Fair**.
- **Building & Grounds** reported that the new contract with Comcast has been signed for Wi-Fi and telephone service at a much reduced rate. Marie (bookkeeper) is following up on this, ensuring that the new contract has taken affect.
- **Outreach and Fellowship Committee** added Pam Joles as a new member. They have changed their meeting date to the first Wednesday/month at 1:00 PM. The hosts for the Gathering Place are posted on the bulletin board in the hall. Please welcome people and clean-up afterward.
- **Worship Committee** submitted a recommendation to start one service in April thru November 2027 because Easter is March 28 and attendance falls after Easter. After discussion, Session recommended it remain one service from May - November 2027 for continuity.
- Pastor Vinod suggested the Thursday email blast message be videoed as a live reading with a video link, as a more personal way of reaching people. A motion was approved for this outreach.

The Session Ruling Elders: 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 **October 18th** will be **Meet the Need Sunday**...the day before the Drive Up/Drop Off Food Drive scheduled for Monday, October 19th.

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, October 18th and deposit them in the large baskets in the Narthex or to the Drive Up/Drop Off Food Drive on October 18th!



October 19, 2026

9:00 AM - Noon

DRIVE UP/DROP OFF FOOD DRIVE

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 second Tuesday of the month at 8:30 AM. The **October 13th** 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.





Upcoming FALL ACTIVITIES

October 15th, 5:00 PM
Dinner (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*

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

**Tuesday, October 13th at
10:00 AM
Fellowship Hall**

The women of the church will gather in the Fellowship Hall to make plans for the next few months.

Handbag BINGO and a Christmas luncheon are in the works.



OUTREACH/FELLOWSHIP

Please continue to visit the Gathering Place following the 9:30 AM service each Sunday. Coffee, tea and snacks will be waiting your arrival. 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 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 randyclark@verizon.net and place HTPC Outreach/Fellowship in the subject line.

A new Holy Trinity Facebook page will be available in the near future.

"Every Christian is a missionary or an impostor."

Charles Spurgeon

OCTOBER GREETERS

October 4th Judy DeLonge & Ralph Jekka

October 11th Judy DeLonge & Ralph Jekka

October 18th Betty & Scotty Robertson

October 25th Betty & Scotty Robertson



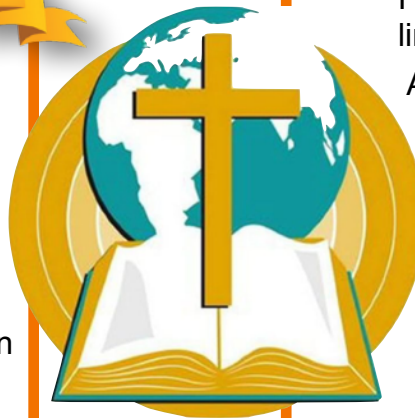
OCTOBER LITURGISTS

October 4th - Darlene Sullivan

October 11th - Janet Daly

October 18th - Mary Ann Hudson

October 25th - Sue Clark



**A FAITH STORY****A Medical Miracle**

One evening in October 1977, our precious three-year-old daughter, Stephanie, fell ill with a 102 degree fever. Since I worked for the U.S. Department of Defense in Baumholder, Germany, we had access to the U.S. military emergency room. Testing identified a kidney infection. Though antibiotics initially cleared it, the high fever returned within days. After a third recurring infection, Stephanie was referred to Landstuhl military hospital for specialized testing.

The results hit us hard. Stephanie had a congenital condition in which an imperfect bladder flap allowed liquid to reflux from her bladder back to her kidneys. Doctors prescribed a continuous antibiotic regimen, hoping that by April the issue would self-correct as often happens with young children. They also informed us that any necessary surgery was unavailable through the U.S. military in Europe. With heavy hearts, we laid our needs before the Lord. He led us to ask our local military chaplain to pray for Stephanie's healing and he graciously did so during a chapel service.

By April, 1978, we fully believed Stephanie would be healed. However, follow-up tests at Landstuhl brought unexpected disappointment: the flap remained imperfect. We were told she must remain on antibiotics until we found specialized care back in the U.S.

In June, following my acceptance into a Ph.D. program at Ohio State University, we consulted with the chair of the urology department. We felt divinely blessed to discover he was a leading expert in an emerging surgical procedure called bilateral ureteral re-implantation. He explained that this procedure had a high success rate; cautioned that Stephanie had already lost 15% functioning in her left kidney and a dangerous 80% in her right; and concluded that without intervention, she would likely not survive.

While the doctor's goal was to convince us to agree to surgery, persuasion was unnecessary. Through the months of high fevers and constant prayers, we had already embraced surgery as God's tool to heal our daughter. We now viewed this renowned specialist's presence at Ohio State as the Lord's gift to wield the tool.

The surgery took place in September and was fully successful. Today, Stephanie remains completely infection-free and enjoys a wonderful quality of life with no limitations from her past kidney damage. Though waiting on the Lord during those difficult months challenged us as parents, His faithfulness was truly our shield. We remain eternally grateful for His medical miracle. Praise the Lord!

Bill Doyle

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christian Education Committee has already begun planning three **Thursday Night Suppers** beginning on Thursday, October 15 at 5PM in Fellowship Hall. The food for these events is organized by Pam Joles. For October you are asked to bring a hearty appetizer to share. The skit following dinner was written by Janet Daly, titled "The Devil Made Me Do It". Please plan to attend and sign up in the Narthex. There will also be a Thanksgiving dinner offered on Thursday, November 12 along with another skit by Janet and on December 10 a Christmas dinner will be offered with a skit for Advent and a Christmas sing-a-long. While these suppers are sponsored by the Christian Education Committee, they are a joint effort with the Worship Committee and the Outreach/ Fellowship Committee. Thank you for all your help and support.

The Thursday suppers continue in January as we offer the "**Ignite**" series once again for five weeks from January 7, 2027 - February 4, 2027. Led by Karen & Bill Doyle, the program will have an international theme with food to compliment the program each week, coordinated by Pam Joles.

Save the date for the **Holiday Craft Fair**: Saturday, November 21, 2026! Come find a unique and special gift for those on your shopping list. We hope to make this a fun event with a variety of items to choose from, and, of course, there will be a Bake Sale! Come get your Thanksgiving desserts!

The Zoom **Bible Study** for the Fall has resumed Wednesdays at 9:30 AM. Everyone is welcome, whether you have a participant's book or not. This study, led by Carole Herbert, is easy to follow and join in.

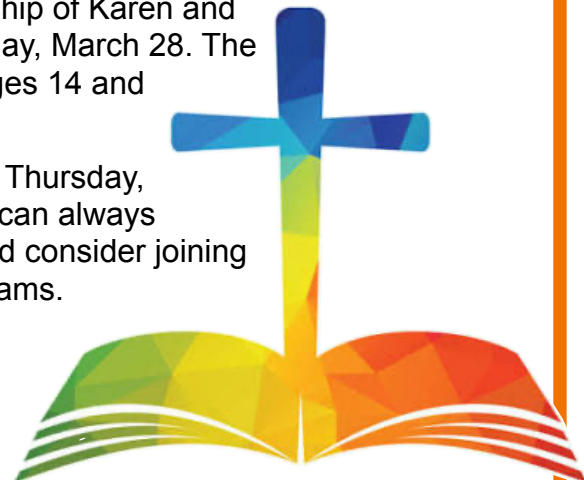
A **Confirmation Class** will be offered in the Fall under the leadership of Karen and Bill Doyle, with the confirmands joining the church on Easter Sunday, March 28. The pastor's two sons will be attending and any other young people ages 14 and above are welcome to join.

The next meeting of the Christian Education Committee will be on Thursday, October 1 at 12:00 PM in the Library (Room 3) and on Zoom. We can always use new members and fresh ideas. Please contact me if you would consider joining our committee or have any questions or suggestions for our programs.

See you at the Thursday suppers!

Janet Daly

Chairperson, 239-567-2285, janetdaly@yahoo.com



GARDENING CLUB

October 20th 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.

Linda Green



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.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday

- 1 Ralph Jekka
- 2 Wilma Jenkins
- 2 Barbara Karner
- 3 Judy Spaulding
- 6 Donald Matlock
- 7 Bill Doyle
- 15 Pam Moulton
- 19 Luanne Putnam
- 28 Dwight Mutschler
- 30 Janice Voss
- 30 Sue Buckhout



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 hpcsecretary@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

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 October 20, 2026. This month's book is *Firefly Lane* by Kristen Hannah.





TREASURER

We are coming into the final quarter of the year. The church is seeking to replace our OLD air conditioning system as it is starting to fail. Please ensure your pledges are up to date and if you have not done so, please contribute to the Peace River Presbytery for our rate of \$69.64 per person which is called "per capita." We have met half of our commitment, \$6,400.

As always, your generosity is greatly appreciated.

God Bless.



\$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.



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.

Debbie Sanders	Bev Smith
Irene Snyder	Mary Gold
Scott Mergenthaler	June Tillson
Ken and Aileen Reese	

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.

If you would like to volunteer to become a Care Angel or Deacon you simply need to let the church office know and someone will reach out to you.

pray for them
encourage them
serve beside them

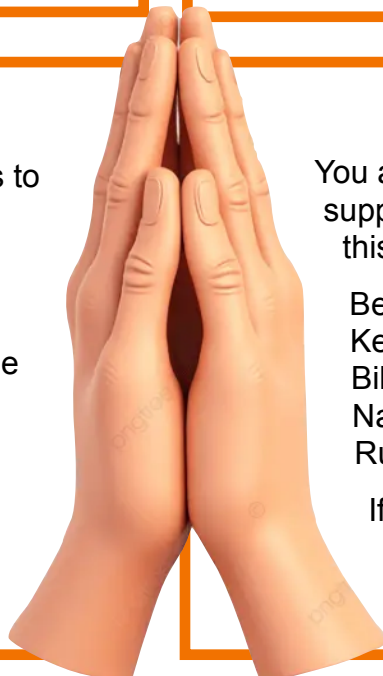


PRAYER CHAIN WARRIORS

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.





October 2026

				1 12:00 PM Christian Education Meeting 1:00 PM Worship Committee Meeting	2	3
4 8:30 AM Praise Team Practice 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Building and Grounds Meeting	5 1:00 PM Deacons/ Care Angels Meeting	6 9:00 AM Mission Committee Meeting 12:00 PM Prayer Meeting/Ice Cream Social	7 9:30 AM Bible Study/Zoom 1:00 PM Outreach/ Fellowship Committee Meeting	8	9	10
11 8:30 AM Praise Team Practice 9:30 AM Worship	12 10:00 AM Finance Committee Meeting	13 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast 12:00 PM Prayer Meeting/Ice Cream Social 10:00 AM Presbyterian Women	14 9:30 AM Bible Study/Zoom	15 5:00 PM Fall Supper and Skit	16	17
18 8:30 AM Praise Team Practice 9:30 AM Worship	19 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Drive in/Drop Off Food Collection	20 10:00 AM Session Meeting 12:00 PM Prayer Meeting/Ice Cream Social 1:30 PM Garden Club 7:00 PM Book Club	21 9:30 AM Bible Study/Zoom	22	23	24
25 8:30 AM Praise Team Practice 9:30 AM Worship	26 1:00 PM America House Bible Study	27 12:00 PM Prayer Meeting/Ice Cream Social	28 9:30 AM Bible Study/Zoom	29	30	31 

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

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



**Prayer &
Ice Cream**
...join us for both

