



THE MESSENGER



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

Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church

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

Living for Christ through Worship, Discipleship, Service and Fellowship



- 3rd Paul Teal
- 3rd Bonnie Logan
- 5th David Herbert
- 15th Betty Robertson
- 16th Elaine Clark
- 17th Jeffrey Lee
- 19th Glenn Tointon
- 21st Joanne Weightman
- 22nd Janet Daly
- 24th Johanan Gnanaraj
- 24th Jonathan Gnanaraj
- 25th Linda O'Leary

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

Dear HTPC family,



Greetings to you in the holy name of our Lord, Jesus Christ! I hope this message finds you well in this season of Lent. As a church, we began our Lenten journey with Ash Wednesday Service, reminding ourselves that Lent is a season of 'Spiritual Spring Cleaning.' I hope your spiritual spring cleaning is coming up well as you daily seek God's help to recognize the hidden sins, and led by the Holy Spirit towards repentance and renewal. Our Lenten Soup Supper and Worship services every Thursday, offer us a joyful opportunity to fellowship and grow in faith through reflections on the cross of Jesus from the perspectives of those who were around the cross of calvary. Thanks to the Christian Education and Worship Committees for their leadership to this ministry. Please take a look at the church calendar for the special events that have been planned for the Lenten season. Your prayerful participation along with your friends and family will be a blessing to all.

The month of March offers us a wonderful opportunity to join with all the PC (USA) churches in the country to make a powerful impact in the world for Jesus Christ. Every year, around this time, all PC(USA) congregations collect a special offering called "One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)." This offering helps PC (USA) to support individuals and communities affected by disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and refugee & immigration crises in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada. We will be receiving the OGHS offering on Palm Sunday, March 29th. I hope you will prayerfully and joyfully join in this opportunity to share. If each of us give a little, together we can make a big difference in the lives of those who are facing hardships which we sometimes can't even imagine. You can also send your offering online through Realm.

March is also the Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. As a church, let us increase our awareness of the challenges faced by people with developmental disabilities and those who offer care to them. Cultivating sensitivity to the pain and struggles of people around us can be a meaningful spiritual practice during Lent. Let us also pray and consider ways of supporting them.

The Ignite Fellowships that we had last month, facilitated healthy discussions and sharing of faith stories. Some have shared their faith stories in writing, one of which is included in this newsletter. I trust that you will be encouraged in faith by reading this faith story, and motivated to share yours. I believe that every Christian, not matter how young or old they may be in Christian faith, has stories of how God showed up for them in their life-situations. Do not underestimate the power of your faith-story. Please send your story of how you experienced God's faithfulness. We will print that in our forthcoming newsletters.



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.**

Grace and peace,

Pastor Vinod

(Rev. Vinod I. Gnanaraj)





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.



IN NEED OF PRAYER

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.

Pat Frantz	Patrick Bapst
Scott Mergenthaler	Irene Snyder
Ken & Aileen Reese	Margaret Lavin
Kelly Lichtenhahn	Rick Sanders
Nancy Walker	Robin Elmassia
Bruce Hirschlein	

We are seeking new members for the choir. No music-reading skills are required; it's just lots of fun singing praise to the Lord! Attendance at the first and second services in February was excellent. Great to see returning snow-birds and regulars.

God Bless! *Paul Brewer*



Men's Fellowship Breakfast March 10, 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 March 9 at 239-567-2246 or text Bill Doyle at 651-245-8149 to let us know you intend to join us.



FOOD DONATIONS NEEDED

Food Drive March 16, 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



Daylight Savings Time Begins March 8



Palm Sunday—March 29
Worship Services 8:30 and 10:30

Welcome Spring

PALM SUNDAY EVENING MUSICAL WORSHIP

Featuring
Kevin Mabry
Singer, Songwriter,
Recording Artist

Palm Sunday
March 29th
5:00 PM

Free-Will Offering

Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church
19251 North Tamiami Trail
North Fort Myers, Florida 33903
239/567-2246




Ladies, mark your calendars for another fun-filled afternoon of handbagbingo.
MARCH 10 @ 2:00

You will need to bring a package of disposable diapers for Healthy Start Program and you will be given bingo cards to play. It's fun...if you win you will receive a new handbag.

We have done this for several years and it is a great way to help others in our community.

Bring your friends!!!

LEGACY AND ENDOWMENT FUND

Have you considered your legacy? Holy Trinity has a Legacy and Endowment Fund overseen by the Session. The two Funds established under the program are the General Endowment Fund and the Capital Facilities Fund.

The **General Endowment Fund's** principal is invested in perpetuity (not the interest). The interest and dividends can be used to supplement internal and external programs such as Christian education, music, pastoral leadership and/or mission.

The **Capital Facilities Fund's** principal is invested in perpetuity. Income from this fund can be used for special projects and capital projects that enhance the physical plant, aesthetics, and overall safety of the church building.

The Presbyterian Foundation invests and manages HTPC's Endowment Funds.

Use of funds – Session can elect to spend up to 50% toward extraordinary expenses due to natural catastrophe i.e. fire, wind, water or other unusual events.

Current market value as of December 31, 2025 is \$12,898.72.

Len Carsley, Chair
HTPC Finance Committee



This special offering will be received on Palm Sunday, March 29th. Offering envelopes and brochures will be inserted in the bulletins.

REALM TRAINING

All are invited to attend the Realm training on Thursday, March 26, 2026 @ 10am in the Sanctuary. To better serve your needs, if you have specific questions you would like answered, either send them to htpcbookkeeper@gmail.com or drop them off at the church office and we will address them at the training.

We will be addressing:

1. How to Login—how to set up your user name and Password.
2. The process to set up online giving.
3. How to access the church directory.

You may bring your phone or laptop to the training session.

Hope to see you there.

Marie Joseph, Bookkeeper

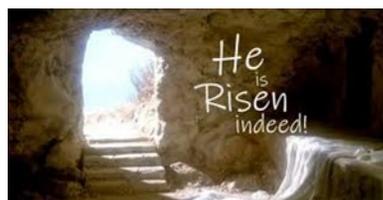


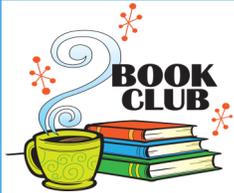
HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, March 29th Worship Services 8:30 & 10:30 AM

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd Worship Service 5:00 PM

Easter Sunday Services, April 5th - Services of Celebration
8:30 AM and 10:30 AM





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.

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, March 17th
The book club selection is: ***Bring on the Blessings*** by Beverly Jenkins



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.

A new Members Matter class will be started in the not-too-distant future. Please sign-up in the Narthex if you would like to become a regular or affiliate member of our congregation.

“Evangelism, in its purest form, is an overflow of worship.” Bill Johnson



CHURCH STAFF:

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

Notes from Session

The Session met on Tuesday, January 20 and February 17, 2026. There was a quorum with nine members present in January and 10 present in February, plus Pastor Vinod, Moderator.

Some highlights of the meetings were:

- The following motions were approved by the Session in February:
- Motion to approve the baptism of Klayton Richard Liepold , two-year old great grandson of Joyce McCabe on Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026.
- Motion to collect the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026. Marie will make sure the offering can be donated on Realm.
- Motion to hold a special service of music by Kevin Mabry at 5pm on Sunday, March 29, 2026.
- Motion to offer membership classes in March with members joining on Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026.
- Motion to offer Realm training to the congregation led by Marie Joseph on Thursday, March 26 at 10AM in the Sanctuary.
- Motion to hold Usher training on Thursday, March 26 following the Realm training.
- The Financial Report at the end of January was presented, showing the General Operating Fund Income as \$18,086.75 and Expenses as \$17,964.44, leaving an overage of \$332.31 for the month.
- Elders Vera Day and Janet Daly were approved to be the representatives from Holy Trinity at the February 19, 2026 Presbytery Meeting in Bradenton..
- The Endowment Policy was reviewed and entered into the Administrative Handbook.
- Deacon moderator, Betty Robertson, reported on the calls made by the Deacons and Care Angels. Prayers were offered at the end of the meeting for those mentioned.
- Building & Grounds Committee Chair, Scotty Robertson, submitted his resignation as Chair of the Committee due to health issues. Elmer Logan and Elder Linda Green-Morrison will co-chair the Committee. The boards to replace the deck on Fellowship Hall have arrived and will be replaced by Dennis and Elmer.
- Mission Chair, Vera Day reported that the drive for the backpacks for Mision Peniel will start in February this year to give the snowbirds a chance to donate.
- Christian Education and Worship Committees will host a Soup/Supper with a skit for Lent starting Thursday, February 26-March 26, 2026. Pam Joles will oversee the soup & bread supper and is asking members of the congregation to sign up to bring soup or bread each week. The Craft Fair is Saturday, February 28. Sign-up sheets to help set up and help on that day are in the Narthex. Pastor Vinod and Carol Herbert are sharing leading a Bible Study on the second and fourth Thursday's of the month at The Palms Senior Living Facility in Fort Myers, initiated by resident/HTPC member, Wilma Jenkins. Children's Sunday School is being held from 9:30-10am in Room 2 led by Pam Joles.
- Outreach/Fellowship Committee Chair, Sue Clark, reported her Committee was very pleased with the response to the "Ignite" fellowship/supper on Thursday evenings. A Keurig Coffeemaker was donated to the Gathering Place .
- The Worship Committee Chair, Mary Ann Hudson, reported that a new florist has been decided on for the flowers on Sunday morning. The Session approved Unforgettable Designs on Hancock Bridge Pky. as the new supplier of the arrangements at a cost of \$40/per to the congregation. Additions to the music licensing subscription for our church were approved by Session. Listen for enhanced music at Sunday worship.
- Dwight Mutschler was approved as the Ruling Elder on the Personnel Committee.

The Session welcomes, Dwight Mutschler, Bill Doyle and Scotty Robertson as new Ruling Elders on Session, Class of 2027. We welcome their expertise and insight as the Session begins a New Year. The Committees and groups are working hard to bring new programs and events to our church. We urge you to attend and invite friends and neighbors. Our programs and worship are open to all.

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 questions or concerns.

Yours in His service, Janet Daly, Clerk of Session



Sue Clark - Faith Story

My mother made sure I attended Sunday School when I was a kid and I had a perfect attendance pin and yearly bars added to that pin to prove it. She never attended church.

I was very active in our church youth group in high school – it was a social event.

I found myself praying in college only when I needed something.

I was married in church and attended regularly with my in-laws.

It was not until I moved to West Palm in 1977 and attended Good Shepherd United Methodist Church that I began to hear about being saved. I was 27.

One evening while doing dishes, I was talking to God about the fact that I had a hard time wrapping my head around the Adam and Eve thing, as well as Noah and Jonah. And the virgin birth was really hard to believe. Then, I looked out the window at a beautiful sunset and found myself saying out loud, “God you can do anything.” At that point I accepted Christ as my savior and began to grow in my faith.

Well, instead of life going well from that point, I was divorced and moved back to Pittsburgh living with my parents for eight years before moving to a home of my own with my two boys. I belonged to a small charismatic church and attended three times a week. But after 15 years of being a single parent, my oldest son having cancer and numerous other stumbling blocks, I became disillusioned and walked away from God and my church after much soul searching. I was a 17-year-old Christian, really 44 years old. Don't all 17-year-olds know more than their father?

Two years later, I had met Bob and we were married. Then, after 14 years without God in my life, I found myself on my knees. He assured me He had never left me and was just waiting for me to realize I still needed Him. I began reading my Bible and prayer became an important part of my life, but I did not go back to church. Then, my oldest son died tragically. Bob suggested we find a church to attend and we did.

Since then, we both have witnessed many miracles in our lives, but the road has been a very rough one. Together we met all the challenges that life can throw at you with the guidance of our Lord, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

One of my favorite Bible verses is: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3: 5-6. He will make your path straight – not smooth, not easy, but straight! And you are sure to learn a whole lot on the way.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR MARCH

March Ushers/Greeters

8:30 Service

March 1 Betty & Scotty Robertson
 March 8 Bonnie & Elmer Logan
 March 15 Betty & Scotty Robertson
 March 22 Linda & Moe Morrison
 March 29 Bill & Joyce Bryant

10:30 Service

March 1 Dave Herbert & Nina Graff
 March 8 Jan & Mike Hawley
 March 15 Jan & Mike Hawley
 March 22 Al Oostema & Dave Herbert
 March 29 Al Oostema & Dave Herbert

March Liturgists

8:30 Service

March 1 Debbie Vitale
 March 8 Janet Daly
 March 15 Mary Kay Tointon
 March 22 Mary Kay Tointon
 March 29 Mary Kay Tointon

10:30 Service

March 1 Barbara Demaree
 March 8 Darlene Sullivan
 March 15 Bill Doyle
 March 22 Carol Herbert
 March 29 Mary Ann Hudson

HOLY TRINITY EVENTS CALENDAR MARCH 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 Communion Sunday</p> <p>8:30 Praise Worship 9:45 Children's Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Worship</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 1:00pm Outreach & Fellowship Committee CR#4</p>	<p>4 9:30 Bible Study via Zoom</p>	<p>5 12:00pm Christian Education Committee 1:00 Missions Committee 4:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>5:00 Lenten Soup/Supper/Worship</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 8:30 Praise Worship 9:45 Building & Grounds Committee 9:45 Children's Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Worship</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS</p>	<p>9 9:00 Missions Committee</p> <p>10:00 Finance Committee</p>	<p>10 8:30 Men's Breakfast at Mel's Diner</p> <p>2:00 Presbyterian Women's Handbag Bingo</p>	<p>9:30 Bible Study via Zoom</p>	<p>12 4:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>1:00 Bible Study at The Palms</p> <p>5:00 Lenten Soup/Supper/Worship</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 Messenger Articles Due</p> <p>8:30 Praise Worship 9:45 Children's Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Worship</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MEET THE NEED SUNDAY</p>	<p>16 9:00am Food Drive: Drive Up - Drop Off</p>	<p>17 10:00am Session Meeting</p> <p>7:00pm Book Club On Zoom</p>	<p>18 9:30 Bible Study via Zoom</p>	<p>19 4:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>5:00 Lenten Soup/Supper/Worship</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 8:30 Praise Worship 9:34 Children's Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Worship</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 9:30 Bible Study via Zoom</p>	<p>26 10:00 Realm Training; Usher training following</p> <p>1:00 Bible Study at the Palms</p> <p>4:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>5:00 Lenten Soup/ Supper/Worship</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 PALM SUNDAY 8:30 Praise Worship 9:45 Children's Sunday School 10:30 Traditional Worship</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:00 KEVIN MABRY CONCERT</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				

