



## From the Pastor's Desk

By Rev. Freddy Fritz

### Advent: The Unexpected King

When I was a child growing up in South Africa, there was one radio station that my parents listened to all the time. The radio was often playing in the morning as we got dressed and ready for school, and then ate our breakfast. Every 1st of December, the music on the radio station became Advent and Christmas music. There was a countdown to Christmas. For a child, it was a very exciting time.

I don't recall learning about Advent while listening to that radio station. However, I do know that I learned about Advent when I came to the United States.

Advent is a wonderful time of the year as we particularly focus on preparing for the birth of Jesus Christ.

This coming Advent Season, I would like to preach a series of sermons that I am calling "Advent: The Unexpected King."

Throughout the Bible, births often herald great hope and expectations and are the result of great faith in God. Many births are a foreshadowing of the greatest birth of all, the birth of Jesus Christ.

The first week, we will focus on the birth of Isaac. Pastor Simmons will preach this message. Isaac's birth teaches us that what God promises will happen according to God's timing. And just as Isaac was born according to God's timing, so Jesus was born according to God's timing.

The second week, we will focus on the birth of Moses. Moses is a type of Christ whose life and ministry point people to Jesus Christ.

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The third week, we will focus on the birth of John the Baptist. John the Baptist was called to make a way for the coming Christ, Jesus, and he began doing this even before he was born.

And the fourth week, we will look at the birth of Jesus. The promised Christ has been born as the prophets foretold. God has become incarnate.

I hope you will join Pastor Scott Simmons and me as we examine “Advent: The Unexpected King” this Advent Season.

*Breddy*

## A Visitor from Brazil

We were blessed to have one of our ESL Zoom students join us in worship on October 29. He lives in Fortaleza, Brazil and was visiting his family in Tampa. The fact that he took the time and effort to visit our church shows how much he appreciates our ministry.



## Books to Give

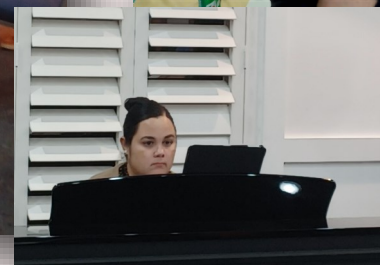
A number of Christian books and history books were donated and are available at the church for anyone who is interested. Please let Scott Simmons know if you would like to browse the titles. After Sunday morning service is generally a good time.



# Thanksgiving Dinner & Service

November 19, 2023

Photos Courtesy of Patricia Harshfield



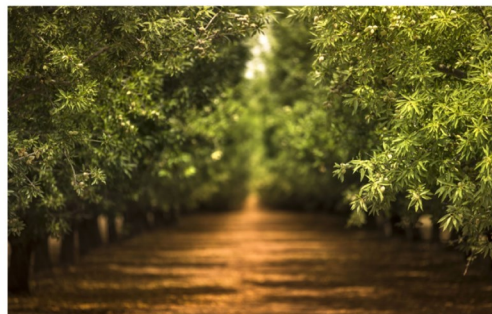
# December Anniversaries

Bill & Ruth Clarke	December 4, 1988
Freddy & Eileen Fritz	December 14, 1985
Blaine & Andrea Schultz	December 14, 2012
Kevin & Sandy Carruth	December 17, 1988
Michael & Carol Bridges	December 18, 1981
Esaie & Natacha Etienne	December 20, 1997
Robert Brown & Ruth Shannon	December 22, 2010
Pete & Laura Rotolo	December 22, 1997
Peter & Lauren Dishman	December 28, 2013
Aldo & Abby Mondin	December 28

# December Birthdays

Connor Turpen	December 1	Betty Pothoven	December 14
Jennifer Isaac	December 5	Scott Simmons	December 15
Christiaan Kemp	December 5	Alba Skopp	December 16
Pete Rotolo	December 8	Melissa Bayley	December 20
Abigail Vincent	December 8	Emalin Henry	December 24
Gabriella Shultz	December 9	Hannah Rucker	December 24
Keira Shultz	December 9	Zainab Karibi-Whyte	December 27
Rachel Contrata	December 11	Stevie Riley	December 27
Senny Karibi-Whyte	December 12	Sandy Carruth	December 28
John Hutton	December 13	Susan Newkirk	December 31

# MISSIONS UPDATE



The season of rejoicing from Thanksgiving through Christmas into the New Year captures our attention. Calendars fill up, time is compressed, and gatherings increase, not to mention travel.

We celebrate the birth of Christ. We rejoice in our great salvation. God sent his one and only Son that through faith in Jesus we may have eternal life. The reason for the holiday season is compelling. There can be no greater explanation for the explosion of decorations and festivities.

Missions is an outworking of Christ's coming. The world needs to hear of the Good News of Jesus' birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension. Each person should be made aware of what Jesus' coming means to them personally and eternally. The Advent season is a prime time to be reminded of missions.

TBPC's Missions Conference will take place **February 9 - 11, 2024**. Our Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Lloyd Kim, Coordinator of Mission To the World, which is the Presbyterian Church in America's missions outreach. He will speak at our all-church dinner Saturday night, February 10, about MTW's "Vision, Mission, and

Values." Sunday morning, February 11, his sermon will be "Kingdom Prayer" and the scripture will be Matthew 6:5 - 11.

How many of our missionaries will join us for our Missions Conference is yet to be determined. To date we have two commitments—Carla Stevens and Nathaniel and Cherita Adawonu. Plans for another short-term missions trip are being finalized. There will be announcements concerning the trip and the trip will be highlighted during the Missions Conference.

The Missions Conference committee is hard at work. If you have an interest in missions and would like to help with the conference, you will be most welcome. Let David Cross know. He is our Missions Conference Chairman.

Please put the Missions Conference on your 2024 calendar. During this Advent Season, as we celebrate Jesus' birth, let us keep in mind the reason he came that all may hear and know the Gospel.

On behalf of the Missions Committee,  
Scott A. Simmons, Chairman

# Men's Fishing Trip

November 18, 2023

Photos Courtesy of Brian Carrier

On November 18th, 2023, the Men's Ministry had their seventh inshore fishing event located at the Gandy Bridge docks. It was again a wonderful time as we had a lot of new fishermen this year. We had 14 men, and 2 young men attend the fishing trip this year. We scheduled the event originally for November 4th, but there was a fishing tournament, and we did not want to have lots of boats on the water. The weather was excellent with a high of 77 and we were on the water by 8 AM with a temperature of 68 degrees. We had 16 and we chartered 4 boats this time and the fishing was average and a lot less fish caught than in 2021. There were many species caught this year, including snook, ladyfish, trout, catfish, lizardfish, flounder, a small shark, and several needlefish. There were more ladyfish caught of all the species, but we had a good variety of fish this year. Those present at the fishing event on boat #1 were Michael Bridges, Steve Mercia, John Hutton, and Steve Nordahl. On boat #2 was the entire Simmons family with those present Rev. Scott Simmons, son Everet Simmons, and grandsons Luke Simmons and Ethan Simmons. On boat #3 we had first timers Ben Sun and guest Xingang Cai, Jose Negro, and Dildar Gajadhar. Finally, on boat #4 we had Mike Cacioppo, Derk Shultz, Ken Smoot, and Brian Carrier.

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## Boat #1



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It was a partly cloudy day with the sun peaking out of the clouds at times. It was not too cold and not too hot, but exactly right for our fisherman. The Lord provided yet another perfect day to catch fish, although they were biting a little, not as much as in past years. We caught approximately 50 fish total among 4 boats, but we had a bonus this year. We caught 2 seagulls and 1 duck. The seagulls were caught on boat #2 by Luke Simmons and on boat #4 by Derk Shultz. The duck was caught on boat #4 by Ken Smoot and when Ken grabbed the duck's neck for a picture, the duck threw his wings open for a perfect pose. Nice job, guys, to make sure you covered the sea and the air this year.

The captains that guided our day were Captain Brian Betancourt (Bubba) on boat #1, on boat #2 with Captain Mark Gore, on boat #3 with Captain Frank Diaz, and on boat #4 with Captain George Jonah.

This trip was extremely exciting as the captains recommended that we fish out in the middle of the bay as there was a strong current that was moving through the bay and out of high tide. There was a light breeze that made the day cooler and did not allow the sun to bring a lot of heat to the trip. We started in one area and the biting was sporadic for boats fishing farther away from the land. We were trying to catch mackerel and brought more ladyfish in this area. Some of the boats were separated from other boats to try and give more opportunity for the fishermen to have more bites of fish. This was not to be as the fishing was sparse most of the day. It was still a fun fishing day for all the men with some activity for everyone on the water.

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## Boat #2



# Boat #3



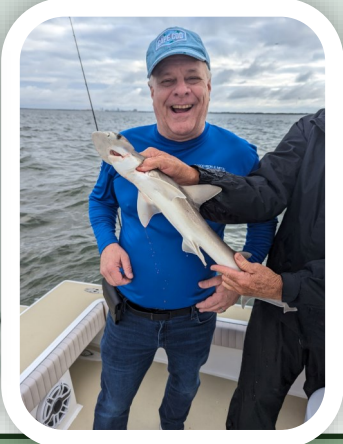
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This year we did not have a grand champion as the counts were about the same with 4 fish caught being the top of the day. The fishing for each boat had at least 1 person catching 4 fish. Boat #4 had a bonus catching a seagull and a duck.

We finished about 1 PM and proceeded to lunch. The final finish to the day was to go to a local restaurant where all the men enjoyed a nice lunch together at the same location as last year, the Salt Shack on the Bay. The food was excellent, and the view was even more amazing. There were a variety of items chosen including burgers and sandwiches with some seafood ordered which was appropriate for the day.

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# Boat #4

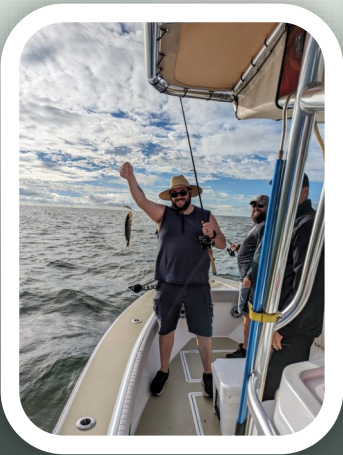
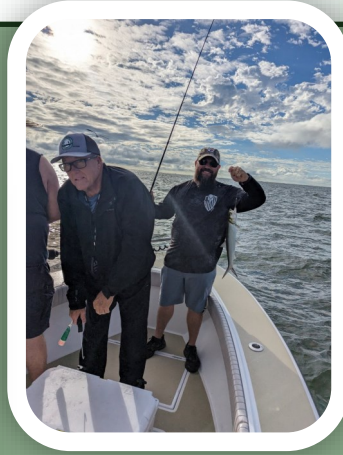
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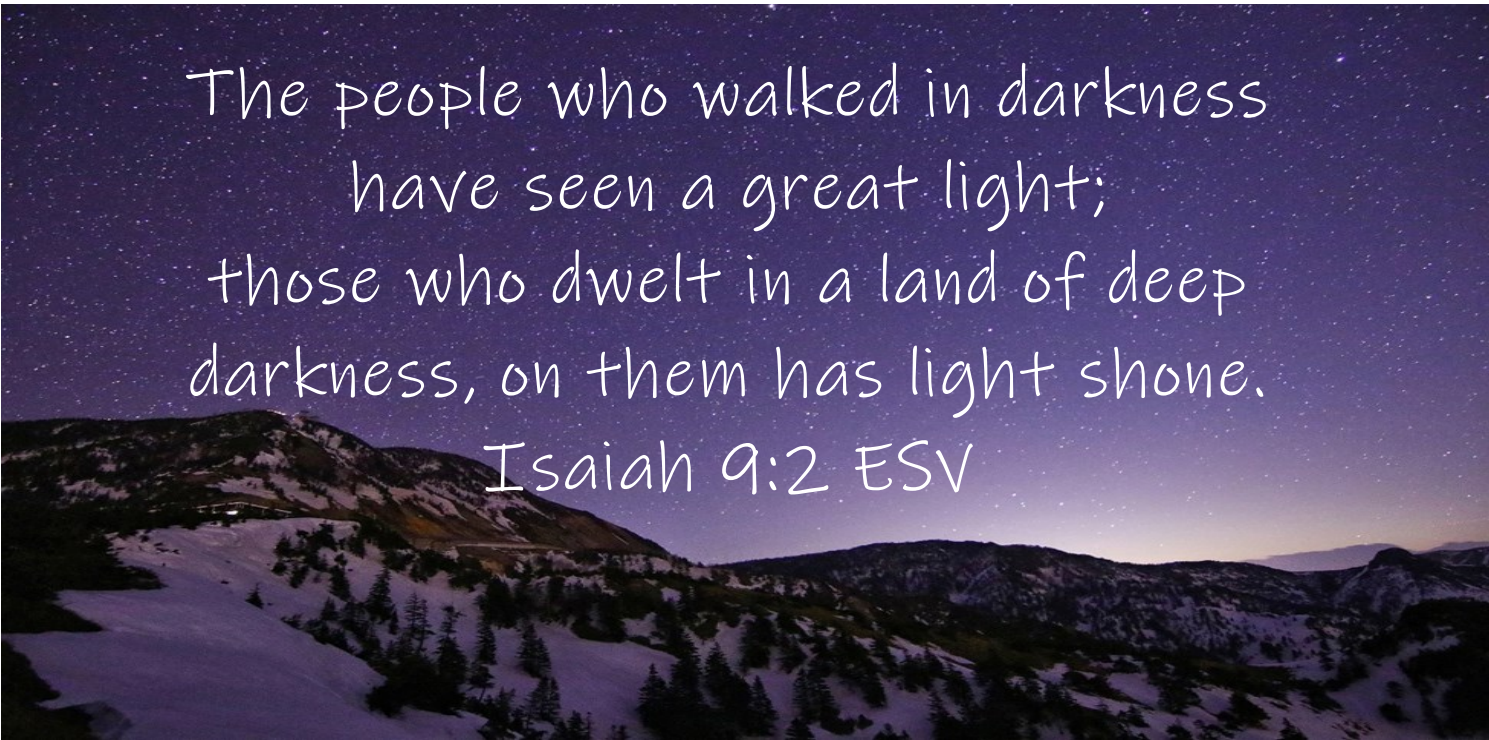
The Men’s Ministry would like to thank all the people who participated in the men’s fishing trip, and we hope we can hire 4 boats again next year. If it is anything like the past years, we are anticipating a lot of men and young men attending next year.

We will be having our next Men’s Ministry event on Friday December 9th for the annual Christmas Men’s Breakfast beginning at 8:30 AM at the church. This event is for men and young men to enjoy a hot breakfast. The cost is only \$10.00, and you will be for sure full of food and fellowship as we have a word from a speaker to be announced later. We would like to thank the men who attended the 7th annual inshore fishing event and look forward to next year doing this around the same time.

We also hope that you men can make it to the Men’s Bible Study every Saturday morning at 8:00 AM led by our own Rod Proctor, studying the book of Romans chapters 12-15 in a study by Dr. Jack B. Scott. Thank you again for the support of the Men’s Ministry & Men’s Bible Study.

With Praise,  
Brian S. Carrier  
Men’s Ministry Leader





The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep  
darkness, on them has light shone.  
Isaiah 9:2 ESV

*Merry Christmas*



*Let Every Heart  
Prepare Him Room*

How are you preparing  
your heart this Advent Season?



## HelloOo, Parents!

Clydia Craig

Do you know all the words to *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*?....How about *Happy Birthday*?...And *Jesus Loves Me*?

Sure, you know them! Do you know why? You learned them as a child when your mind was fresh and eager to learn new things, and you learned them to music!

For several years on our Sunday School, we have used *Ask Me WhoOo*. It's the music of a three-volume CD set with Scripture and the Children's First Catechism, both word-for-word. It is so easy to memorize as a sing-along! *Ask Me WhoOo* has been included in Sunday School for Toddlers through 5<sup>th</sup> Graders underscoring our *Show Me Jesus!* curriculum. Yes, Toddlers! Don't under-estimate those little sponge brains!

Now, there's an exciting NEW part! Kids who are signed up for Sunday School this year who memorize and recite or sing will about 13 Q&As and verses each quarter will earn Bucks up to...

\$25 Media Bucks or 2-3 year-olds for Bibles, Christian books, music, or videos.

\$50 Media Bucks for 4 year- olds through 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders.

\$100 in Camp Bucks or Media Bucks towards Christian camp 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> Graders.

Perhaps the most important part of all of this is that we will be grounding our Covenant children in the basic tenants of our faith. I know it's no surprise to you that young people today are bombarded with lies that lead them astray. Even children who have grown up in church, too often leave later. They don't know what they believe. If they don't know what they believe in, they will believe in anything. The culture these kids are growing up in is broken and evil. Satan wants to destroy our kids! Record numbers of our kids are depressed and committing suicide because they have no solid biblical foundation.

A 2022 study<sup>1</sup> focused on the Gen X, born 1960 - 1980 produced some shocking statistics:

70% listed themselves as Christian on surveys, but -

44% never read the Bible.

63% said Right from Wrong was "situational."

31% never go to church.

57% never participate in a Bible study.

33% do not believe that the Bible is the Word of God.

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According to this same study, “If someone has robust religious experiences growing up, they are likely to maintain their beliefs and practices into adulthood.”

At the baptism of our Covenant babies, we all raise our hands and pledge that we will help the parents to raise the child up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. But unless we are Sunday School or Children's Church teachers or Nursery workers, we don't have much interaction with the young ones. However, one of the most rewarding experiences I've had in this church was taking part in the *Pray for Me* campaign. I had two sweet boys to pray for. In my interaction with them, I asked each of them how I could pray for them. It was so rewarding! I really got to know them when otherwise I would not have.

So how can you help in keeping our young ones in church, and in the Word? Our TBPC Family has 21 Toddlers through 5<sup>th</sup> Graders who are children of TBPC members. We pray each one will be enrolled and in regular Sunday School attendance this year! That means we would need 21 volunteers to be “Coaches,” (or “Buddies”), to listen to the children recite the memorized Scripture and Catechism. For you to volunteer would mean no study or prep time, very little extra time at the church, and no special skills. Just love, interest, and prayer! This is a such great way to get to know a one of our TBPC kids and for one of them one of them to get to know you. This only involves a few minutes after church, plus listening and evaluating a recitation once a quarter. We also plan to have an all-church *Ask Me WhoOo* Sing-Along at the in May.

Our kids will memorize quickly as they sing *Ask Me WhoOo* each week in Sunday School, at home, in a park, or in the car with parents and sibs or even by themselves. The *Ask Me WhoOo* Song Time during the Second Sunday Evening Service each month will make memorizing easier still! The music in audio and video is easy to find on You Tube by just searching for *Ask Me WhoOo*. Also, <http://www.askmewhooo.com/series.html>

Right now, we also need four more for our Sunday School Team, Teachers and Assistants! since we only have half of the teachers we need. Most of all, we need parents to be committed to bringing their kids each week to Sunday School and to be listeners and encouragers for their kid as they practice reciting or singing what they have learned.

Let's to bridge the age gap at TBPC! We need everyone to pray as we kick this program off in the In September. Ask God what He wants you to do to help to rescue our children. He has a job for each of us!

Thanks from the *Ask Me WhoOo* Team!

Contacts:	Eileen Fritz	Sunday School Coordinator	(813) 731-0457
	Clydia Craig	Head Cheerleader	(813) 335-6320
	Ruth Clarke	Administrator	
	Bill Clarke	Technician	
	LeeAnn DeStefano	Technician	

1 <https://www.americansurveycenter.org/research/generation-z-future-of-faith/#:~:text=If%20someone%20had%20robust%20religious,beliefs%20of%20their%20parents%27%20faith>



DID  
YOU  
KNOW?

The TBPC Website has a new look!

The "Members Only" section has a new password. Members may contact the church office (813-973-2484 or [office@tbpca.org](mailto:office@tbpca.org)) for the password.



ONLINE GIVING

Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church is changing our online giving tool to Servant Keeper. This will provide all the same service that you have come to expect from your church, just with a new provider. You will notice that it even looks and works very similar to Faithlife Giving, our previous tool. Servant Keeper is experienced and provides highly secure transactions.

Sometime over June, when you click on our giving page you will see instructions to register for the new tool:

- " Search for whether your email is in the system
- " Reset your password and update your profile
- " Make your contribution!

Questions about the new solution? Please have a look at this user video: GPBSK - Donor Portal ([wistia.com](http://wistia.com)), see giving FAQs: Online Giving FAQs for Givers - Servant Keeper ([servantpc.com](http://servantpc.com)), or contact the church office at 813-973-2484 or email [office@tbpca.org](mailto:office@tbpca.org).

Please note that if you have a scheduled gift, it has been saved and will continue as it has previously. Soon, you will be able to make any changes to your scheduled gift directly in the Servant Keeper app.

We thank you for your continued support of our church over the years.

# Calendar of Events: 2023-24



## Fall

- Women's Small Group  
9/5 - 11/14
- Women's Bible Study  
9/11 - 11/14
- Men's Breakfast  
9/16
- Adult Bible Fellowship  
Children & Youth SS  
9/3 - 12/17
- Men's Bible Study  
9/2 - 12/17
- Youth Group  
7/17 - 12/17
- Membership Class  
11/5
- Church Retreat  
11/10 - 11/12
- Thanksgiving Dinner &  
Service  
11/19

## Winter

- Youth Group  
12/3 - 2/18
- Women's Christmas  
Brunch  
12/2
- Beginning of Advent  
12/3
- Christmas Eve Service  
12/24
- Adult Bible Fellowship  
Children & Youth SS  
1/7 - 3/31
- Men's Bible Study  
1/7 - 3/30
- Women's Bible Study  
1/8 - 3/26
- Missions Conference  
2/9 - 2/11
- Membership Class  
2/18

## Spring

- Passion Week  
Maundy Thursday  
Service  
3/28
- Good Friday Service  
3/29
- Easter Sunday  
3/31
- Youth Group  
4/1 - 5/26
- Women's Bible Study  
4/1 - 5/14
- Men's Bible Study  
4/6 - 5/25
- Adult Bible Fellowship  
Children & Youth SS  
4/7 - 5/26
- ESL End of Year Lunch  
4/27
- Membership Class  
5/19

## Summer

- Vacation Bible School  
TBD
- Missions Trip to Belize  
July TBD
- Membership Class  
8/18

Contact us



facebook.com/tbpres



www.tampabaypresbyterian.org

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## Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church Staff

Rev. Freddy Fritz,  
*Senior Pastor*

Melissa Bayley,  
*Office Administrator*

Stephanie Smoot,  
*Nursery*

LeeAnn DeStefano,  
*Office Assistant*

Yanet Bermudez Ortiz,  
*Music Director / Pianist*

Bob Morrison,  
*Bookkeeper*

Patricia Harshfield,  
*Custodian*

Ashleigh Kemp,  
*NTCA Director*

## TBPC Ministries

*Adult Bible Fellowship*  
Ed Jordan

*Nursery*  
Stephanie Smoot

*Children*  
Vacant

*Outreach*  
Bert Barber

*Brunch Bunch*  
Alisa Carrier

*Pastoral Care*  
Rev. Freddy Fritz

*Greeters & Welcome Table*  
Brian Carrier

*Ushers*  
Jennifer Schumm

*Hospitality*  
Joan M. Kosanovich

*Women's Bible Study*  
Eileen Fritz &  
Debbie Jordan

*Men's Bible Study*  
Rod Proctor

*Women's Ministry*  
Brandi Shultz

*Men's Ministry*  
Brian Carrier

*Workshop Ministry*  
Melissa Bayley &  
Stephanie Smoot

*Missions*  
Scott Simmons

*Youth*  
Bert Barber

*NTCA*  
Ashleigh Kemp

## Trumpet Staff

Rev. Freddy Fritz, *Editor-in-Chief*

Grace Lee, *Co-Editor*

It is the goal of the *Trumpet* staff to provide articles for learning and growing, news for connecting with our church family, and information on opportunities for service and participation. The views and opinions expressed in the *Trumpet* have not been reviewed or endorsed by the Session.

Please forward articles, pictures, ministry reports, and calendar items for the next edition of the *Trumpet* to [grace76548@gmail.com](mailto:grace76548@gmail.com) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication.

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