

# TRINITY PRESS



January/February 2026

## Words from Our Pastor | 2026 Is Here!



**Rev. Brent Barclay | Pastor**

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**REMEMBER!** You can see this publication online at [www.trinitypres.org](http://www.trinitypres.org) and click on "Ministries" in the top bar and go to the last item on the list, "Newsletter."

**Press deadline**  
**February 15, 2026**

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It's a phrase we say a lot around this time of year, because the happiness that comes with it is in the hope that by turning our calendars to a new year, we can put the past behind us, and gleefully hope that the year ahead is much, much better than the previous year.

I've always found this premise a bit odd. The implication is that I'm either

ready to put this year behind me, as it was full of hardships and challenges, combined with the optimism that, of course, the year ahead will automatically be better than the previous one.

Yet year after year, we return to New Year's Day with the same attitude, putting behind us the disappointments of the past year, throwing ourselves into the optimism of the blank slate that is the year to come.

Now, before I discourage you from embracing the idea of a Happy New Year, as Christians, we can cultivate a joyous optimism for the future by finding it in something more meaningful than simply turning our calendars over.



Paul writes in Romans 8:18:

*I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.*

Paul reminds us that we are currently sitting in a present that is full of hardships, challenges, difficulties, and tragedies, yet at the same time, we can look forward to something beyond our present sufferings. It is good to have a bright and happy outlook about what is to come.

But happiness is fleeting. This fact is why every New Year's Day feels like an exact return to the year before.

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# Words from Pastor | 2026 Is Here

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The follower of Jesus, however, has a joy that breaks the cycle.

*1 Peter 1:3-4 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you...*

Because of the Christmas season we just celebrated, when we anticipated and rejoiced in

the birth of Christ, we have a future hope that looks beyond 2026, 2027, and all the calendar years ahead. Jesus gives us a hope beyond this life, beyond all the suffering, hardships, challenges, and tragedies in the year to come.

So yes, Happy New Year! But know this, because of Jesus Christ, we have a joyful future full of hope and peace. That is truly something to celebrate!

Blessings,  
Pastor Brent



*Photo by Kolby Milton on Unsplash*

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# Children's Ministry | The Story of the Bible

**B**eing content and having an attitude of gratitude stands out in the darkness of this world we live in. In Sunday school, we focused on how we shine for Jesus when we can find something every day for which to be thankful. To illustrate this, we used glowsticks to spell out **T-H-A-N-K**, demonstrating how there is always a reason to praise our awesome God.

**T** Shaped like a cross, we **THANK** God for sending Jesus, and we **TRUST** Him as our personal Lord and Savior.

**H** **HEAVEN** is our eternal home and the reason for our **HOPE**.

**A** God's awesome **ATTRIBUTES**, like how he is good, merciful, and faithful.

**N** **NOTHING** can separate us from God's love, and he is for us.

**K** God's **KINDNESS** draws us to Him and supplies everything we need.

We are thankful for our church family and our wonderful volunteers, Ms. Helen and Ms. Kya!

During Advent, we took time to focus on different characters in the Christmas story, beginning with the wise men seeking the Messiah. We played a scavenger hunt game to demonstrate how we continually seek the Lord in his Word and through prayer. Next, we learned about the chosen shepherds who saw a glimpse of Heaven and the glory of the angels proclaiming the birth of Jesus. Finally, the real reason for the season - the gift of Jesus being born on one silent night. Our Savior, Emmanuel God with us.

May God fill us all with contentment and wonder as we begin 2026, because his eternal presence is with us wherever we go. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Lydia Barclay**

*Interim Children's Ministry Director*



# Trinity Christian School | Christmas and the New Year

*"For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6*

**W**hat a beautiful season it was, and Trinity Christian School (TCS) shone bright, celebrating the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. As we wrapped up this year and remembered what Christ did for us, we could not be more blessed that we were able to share this with our friends and family through our annual Christmas performances. This year, we celebrated the story of Jesus' birth with country flair. Our "Wild West Christmas" performances were amazing. Joshua Edwards did an excellent job his first year here! We

can't wait to see what he has planned for next Christmas!

Even while the Christmas performances were the busiest part of our December, can you believe we still had time to fit in so many more things!

**KUSI:** On November 12th, 2025, the principal and associate principal participated in a live KUSI interview to highlight TCS's heart and vision. This was the first of four segments on Good Business San Diego. Our goal for this segment was to share who TCS is, our mission, our commitment to Christ-centered education, and the ways we partner with local and global organizations through programs like Operation Christmas Child and Serve-A-Thon. By sharing our story on this platform, we pray that it will bring greater awareness about our school within



Above: Lindsay Gonzalez, TCS principal, and Sandra Martinez, associate principal, participated in a live interview on KUSI News.

Below and below right: The third through fifth grade Christmas program.



Above and above left: Operation Christmas Child boxes get loaded up for delivery.



Below: Kindergarten through second grade Christmas program.



the community and encourage increased enrollment in the future.

**Operation Christmas Child:** Our students packed 160 Operation Christmas Child boxes this year. We participated in a lovely chapel where we prayed over the boxes and continued the tradition of the eighth graders carrying the boxes out to Sharlene Park's car.

**Presbyterian Women's Concert:** This was a beautiful event. The kids did a great job. The preschool sang a song, the TCS Choir sang one song, and then the whole school sang two songs for the women. The two songs the whole school sang were from the TCS Christmas programs. We are so blessed to be able to share this with the church.

**Hot Cocoa Bar:** The Parent/Teacher Fellowship (PTF) so generously blessed all the students and staff with hot (lukewarm) cocoa. It was so much fun when the PTF dressed up in inflatable Christmas costumes to serve the cocoa.

*"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."* Isaiah 43:18-19



Above: PTF volunteers man the Hot Cocoa Bar!

Below: Eighth grade students and their first grade buddies having fun!



As the new year is upon us, we are geared up and ready for all the amazing plans God has for us in 2026. In January, we will begin our registration process. Please keep this small school on the hill in prayer. When God calls those that he wants here, they will be obedient to that call and come check us out. We have already had a few tours in December and have more scheduled in January. We know God has already set the path for next year's school year, and we will continue to have faith in that.

Our upcoming January and February events include: the Father/Daughter Dance, the fifth-grade Chapel presentation, the Father/Hero Chapel, the 100th Day of School, and the third/ fourth-grade Chapel. We look forward to all these great events.

Thank you all again for praying and supporting us. It's been an amazing year so far!

**Lindsay Gonzales**  
*Principal*

**Sandra Martinez**  
*Associate Principal*  
*principal@trinitycs.org*  
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Below: Presbyterian Women's concert



## Clippers



Ahoy mates!

The Clippers board meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 13th**, at 9:30 a.m. in Ward Center. Please note that this is a week later than the customary first Tuesday of the month.

Clippers is pleased to announce Russ Douglass as the speaker for its January 17th monthly meeting. Russ is one of Trinity Church's supported missionaries

and heads up Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) in North County. The FCA has expanded its ministry within schools in California, around the nation, and even internationally. Young people desire to find the meaning Jesus brings to their lives in our contemporary society. Our potluck meal begins at 1:00 p.m. in Williams Hall. Our program will follow. Be prepared for an inspiring presentation and to support FCA!

Yer trusty first mate,  
Melanie Plett



*Happy New  
Year!*

## Special Sunday | Trinity Church Blesses the OCC Boxes

**O**n November 16th, Trinity Church prayed a special blessing all the Operation Christmas Child boxes our congregation

donated. We contributed enough boxes to completely cover the pulpit. Pastor Brent had to preach in front of all the boxes.



## Advent at Trinity Church



Trinity Church Hosts a Special Class!

**Presented by Pacific Seminary Connect**

# **“How to Read the Psalms”**

**led by a Pacific Seminary Professor**

**January 28th, February 4th & 11th  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m in Williams Hall**

Spring Valley, CA 91977  
3902 Kenwood Dr.

