

Trinity Tidings

May 2018

**Trinity Church is a fellowship seeking to share the love and word of Jesus Christ
with all.**



If we live by the
SPIRIT,
let us also keep
in step with the
SPIRIT.

GALATIANS 5:25, ESV

Pentecost

Communion

Service of Prayer and Healing

National Day of Prayer

From the Pastor

How Do You View the Church?

There are a variety of images and ways that people look at Trinity Church. Here are some common ones.

Is the church like.....

A store

I go to get what I want, pay for it and go home. If they don't have what I want, I go to another store. If the quality of the product disappoints me, I shop elsewhere. I may have two or three favorite stores.

A doctor's office

I go when I'm in need of help, get the help I need and don't go back until I need something else.

A club

I go to see my friends and have fun doing things with them. If they're not there, I generally don't go.

A fitness center

I know I should get in shape so I go occasionally, but I often lose interest and stop going. I find easy excuses to stop going.

A team

I'm a member of the team and I go to practice when it's convenient, and usually show up for the big games.

A corporation

I invest in order to get more back. When I don't get a sufficient return on my investment, I change companies.

A country

I know I'm a citizen and enjoy the benefits of citizenship, but prefer not to do too much in return for those benefits. When I don't receive enough of those benefits I complain to my representatives.

Continued....

These are all common ways people think about and treat a church. But none of them is biblical. The Bible most often refers to the church in one of two images.

Family

Because we recognize God as our heavenly Father, Christians in the church are brothers and sisters in the faith. And just as human families love and care for each other, so Christians in the church love and care for one another. And just as there can be disagreements and disappointments in families, when that happens in the family called the church, we talk, think, pray, discern and come to resolutions together.

The human body

Jesus is often referred to as the Head of the Church and so the people of the church are His body. The Bible offers lovely images about how every part of the body is important and has a part to play in the overall health of the body. So in the church, every person is important and has a part to play and is needed.

It's important for us to prayerfully contemplate how we view our church and to consciously align our attitudes and actions with the teachings of the Bible.

Together in Christ's service,

Frank



Pentecost Sunday ~ May 20th

Commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Jesus and the beginning of the church. Wear red to a worship service.

The Bulletin Board

Martha Friendship Circle: Monday, May 7th

Martha Friendship Circle will meet on Monday, May 7th at 12:30 p.m. in the Heritage Room at Heath Village for our Annual Spring Luncheon. Essie Cox will choose a wonderful menu for us all to enjoy. Janet Moss will take reservations, and you can reach her at 908-269-6048. To top it all off, Uncle Claude will be joining us with his lovely music and song. It will be great fun and you don't want to miss it. Bring your friends. We love to have new people join us. In the meantime, be well and enjoy the springtime. Peace and love, Ginny and Lauren. If you have any questions, call 908-852-6431.

Trinity UMM Fellowship Breakfast: Saturday, May 12th

The breakfast is 8 - 9:30 a.m. in Starr Hall (7:45 a.m. coffee for early arrivals). All are welcome.

New Members Reception: Sunday, June 10th

The process includes a dinner on Saturday, June 9th, and on the 10th, a class at 9:15 a.m. and reception into the fellowship of the church during the 10:45 a.m. worship service. If you find Trinity is a good place for you to worship and serve, please consider joining. For more information or to join, let one of the pastors know, call the church office at 908-852-3020, or indicate your interest on the *Just Say Yes* form in the worship bulletin or on the fellowship sheet.

Baptism: Sunday, May 13th

The sacrament of baptism for babies, youth and adults is during the 10:45 a.m. worship service. For information, call the church office at 908-852-3020 or see the application online at our website. The next baptisms will be on July 8th and September 23rd.

Interfaith Hospitality Network: June 24th - July 1st

Safe Harbor Ministry: Saturday, May 26th

Midnight Run: Friday, June 15th

Continued thanks for the various donations that have been received for the Midnight Run mission work. Here is an update on needed items for your brothers and sisters in NYC. All items are for adults and should be CLEAN and gently used. Men's jeans sizes 30-38, hoodies, sweatshirts, T-shirts, women's jeans sizes 8-14, hoodies, sweatshirts, T-shirts, sneakers for men and women. New items needed are men's white socks, deodorant and washcloths. Items may be left in the bins in the Rotunda or the side porch of the office building. Again, sincerest thanks to all!

Holy Communion Dates

- Saturday, May 5th - 5 p.m. Saturday Night Worship
- Sunday, May 6th - 8 a.m. Chapel service
- Sunday, May 20th - 9:15 and 10:45 a.m. Sanctuary services

Our Methodist Connection

From the beginnings of the Methodist Church in 1736, the various components of the church have been connected to one another. We refer to ourselves as a "connectional church." A large part of that connection is the Annual Conference of the church, held in each area of Methodism once a year.

Trinity is a part of the Greater New Jersey Conference of the UMC and so we participate in the annual conference held annually. This year, that conference will be held in Wildwood, New Jersey, May 20th – 22nd.

Attending will be the appointed clergy from Trinity, along with our elected lay representatives. At the conference, business related to all 565 churches will be addressed, new clergy will be ordained and commissioned, retiring clergy will be officially retired, worship services will be held, and programs related to the entire conference will be discussed and voted upon.

It is at this conference that pastors are appointed to their churches by Bishop John Schol. It's anticipated that Dr. Fowler, Rev. Gebhard and Rev. De Vos will be re-appointed to Trinity. At the same time, this is when Rev. Jenny Smith Walz will be appointed to her new assignment at the Princeton UMC (see more details page 6).

It's important to note that Trinity is a part of this larger connection, and that we fulfill our ministry and mission in the context of thousands of other Christians who likewise seek to do the work of Christ.

An Amazing Gift Received

Trinity recently received an amazing gift from a generous parishioner. The donor has anonymously given the sum of \$250,000 toward our church mortgage!!

Prior to this gift, we had a mortgage of \$1,100,000. With this gift it's now reduced to \$850,000. The impact of this amazing gift is that it reduces the life of our mortgage by six years and will save us over \$60,000 in interest over the life of the loan.

By way of a reminder, our mortgage is from the purchase and renovation of Trinity House and the Mission Barn, and the renovation of our sanctuary, both of which were completed and opened in 2008.

We thank God for generous hearts and for this wonderful gift to Trinity.

Our Church Staff

With the news that Pastor Jenny Smith Walz will be leaving Trinity to become the pastor of the Princeton UMC, the Pastor Parish Relations Ministry Team and the Administrative Board have determined that we do not need to replace that part-time clergy position on our staff. In its place, a staffing task force is working on a plan to use the funds from that clergy position to address two important needs in the church.

Worship Arts Coordinator

With our many music groups, many other talented musicians and artists, and with opportunities for worship to be augmented by graphic arts, drama, dance and other components, the task force is developing a job description for a part-time coordinator of worship arts. Since we don't have a music director, this person would fill that role, but also do far more in organizing and developing additional components to make our worship services more meaningful. Of note is that the Administrative Board had created a version of this position 10 years ago but we were never able to fund it.

Social Media Manager

With technology being an increasing part of all of our society, and churches more and more relying on the virtual world to promote the church, inform people of events and inspire all, it's hoped that a part-time person would oversee the current, untapped and emerging platforms in the virtual world so that Trinity can reach more and more people, especially younger souls. Pastor Jenny did some of this work, and with her departure we will need these tasks, and more, covered by a knowledgeable person.

Watch for details as these jobs are eventually posted and applications are solicited.

Recently, the Administrative Board approved recommendations from both the Pastor Parish Relations Ministry Team and the Lay Personnel Ministry Team regarding the following staff changes.

Congregational Care Pastor

Sharon Hoff was hired for a part-time position in Pastoral Care to succeed Anthony Pami who is stepping away from this ministry. Anthony will continue as a volunteer at Trinity, including participating in the preaching rotation. Sharon is currently appointed by our Bishop as the co-supply pastor of the Vienna and Free Union United Methodist Churches in Independence Township, and was recently approved as a candidate for ministry by the District Committee of Ordained Ministry. She's been active as a volunteer at Trinity for many years. She'll serve for 10 hours a week, teaming with Ginny Thorp in doing a large part of our congregational care ministry.

Thrift Shop Driver

Curtis Sink was hired to work part-time as a Thrift Shop driver, doing pickups and drop offs for the Furniture Gallery. Curtis is a professional bus driver, and has been active at Trinity for many years.

Resignation Received

Family Ministry Team Administrative Assistant, Caelyn Adams, has resigned from her position and the Lay Personnel Ministry Team is evaluating this job description and will bring it forward for approval once it has been re-established.

Confirmation Sunday: June 3rd

On Sunday June 3rd, we'll participate in an ancient rite of the Church. On that day we'll confirm youth into the Christian faith and into the membership of the church. Our 8th graders have been studying and meeting in small groups all year. They've gone on three field trips and have participated in mission projects. And on June 3rd they'll stand alone at the altar of the church and affirm that they are Christians. Please make a special effort to attend this worship service to bear witness to and support this vital moment in the church of Jesus Christ.

GAiN Packing Event

Last October, 20 people (adults and youth) traveled to the GAiN Logistics Center in Mt. Joy (Lancaster County), Pennsylvania for a day of packing humanitarian aid. Many came home saying how much they enjoyed this hands-on mission activity; some even said they would like to go back for more than one day!

The next packing event at GAiN is Tuesday, June 19th - Saturday, June 23rd. You can go for one day or two days or more! For those who want to carpool and go as a church group, we'll be planning a trip on Saturday, June 23rd. For more information about GAiN and the packing events, Google **GAiN Logistics Center**.

For those who are planning to make this a multi-day trip, you may also want to include seeing the production *Jesus* at the nearby Sight and Sound Theater. This is a new show and tickets seem to be selling fast, so you would want to make plans as soon as possible. For more information, please get in touch with Joan Caldwell at jmcalldwell512@gmail.com.

Service of Prayer and Healing

May 23rd

7:30 p.m.

Trinity House

Join us for a moving service of prayer and healing. If you are in need of physical, emotional, relational or spiritual healing, come. You can also come on behalf of someone else who is in need of healing.

Savor Suppers



THEY *broke bread*
IN THEIR HOMES & ate
TOGETHER *with glad*
& *sincere hearts.*

ACTS 2:46



Savor Suppers are opportunities for women to gather for faith-filled fellowship, a simple meal and rich conversation. Suppers include no more than five women plus the host allowing for women to really connect with one another over a simple meal. If you're willing to open your home for a Savor Supper, please email Pastor Deb at ddevos@catchthespirit.org. You choose the date and time! Please include that information in your email, as well. **The next supper is May 17th, 6:30 p.m. in Hackettstown.**

Greetings Ministry ~ May 13th

Come to the Greetings Ministry table in Starr Hall on Sunday, May 13th. We have cards, envelopes, stamps and the names of people who need a friendly, caring greeting from Trinity. All YOU need to do is just sit down for a few minutes and write a note of care, compassion and hope. Or you may know someone who would enjoy receiving a greeting. We also want to send mail to service men and women to let them know we remember. Send name and current mailing address for any military folks to Edna Barrier at nebarrier@aol.com or Sue Bernard at bernards1963@aol.com.



Memorial Day ~ May 28th

Thrift Shop News

Maureen Storey

The Merry Month of May. Spring is fully upon us (I hope) and we in the Thrift Shop have lots going on as we look to Mother's Day, proms, weddings, graduations, and yes, the beginning of the summer outdoor cookout and barbeque season starting (officially) with the Memorial Day holiday. The Garden Room is open, and it's time to get outside and enjoy God's garden! Look for some outdoor furniture and decor, furniture that can be repurposed and/or upcycled (we like fun, quirky, old, funky and original), and even outdoor lighting. The Main Street Shop is jammed with items for the whole family - clothes and accessories for the season, wall decor, housewares and linens, books for the beach and picnic ware.

Why does any of this matter? Because we're called to welcome the stranger, shelter the traveler, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, comfort the sick. We're a community space where people come and feel welcomed. The income that we make goes to support this amazing church and its many missions, which allows us to act as the hands, feet and heart of God in this world to many of the people who come through our doors. Our generous donors allow us to provide for people who are in need. Our superb volunteers create a welcoming atmosphere and a shopping space that feels more boutique than thrift so our customers feel like they've had a unique, special time shopping. And they have, in more ways than they can imagine. Would you like to join us? Everyone's welcome because nobody's perfect and anything is possible.

With Our Sympathy

- ❖ Doug Strassle on the death of his brother, Ed
- ❖ McVeigh family on the death of Marion McVeigh
- ❖ Family and friends on the death of Ruth Bartow
- ❖ Theresa Cole on the death of her mother, Catherine Waldele
- ❖ Family and friends on the death of Ardys Culp
- ❖ Ken Roehrich on the death of his brother, Henry



UMM Matters

Bill Blaskopf

On April 14th, Bill Blaskopf did a Power Point presentation about his recent trip to Israel entitled *From Bethlehem to Jerusalem: In the footsteps of Jesus*. The presentation had photos Bill took at significant places in Jesus' life and compared them to commonly held images. It was a beautiful recap of several of the events of Easter. Afterwards, over 20 people went to one of three locations around Hackettstown and helped the Musconetcong Watershed Association (MWA) with its annual cleanup of the Musconetcong River. Special thanks are offered to those who attended the river cleanup.

At our May 12th meeting, we'll be lead in a discussion of *What Does It Mean to Be a Methodist*. We'll use Methodist brochures to assist us in the discussion. On June 9th, Mr. Brian Dungan, District Director of the Forks of the Delaware Boy Scout Council, will speak on *The Future of Scouting*. And we'll recognize any boys of Troop 416 who have become Eagle Scouts this year.

Summer 2018: Our Second Annual "Balls and Strikes" will occur. These family friendly events are set up to help provide families an opportunity to participate in two events together: see a baseball game and to go bowling.

We have only 40 tickets to see the Somerset Patriots play the New Britain Bees on Friday, June 15th at 7 p.m. in the TD Bank Ballpark in Somerset, N.J. The game will be followed by a fireworks display. We're selling \$14.50 tickets for \$12.50. Our tickets are on the field level on the third base side facing right field where the fireworks will occur.

And on Saturday, July 28th, we'll be able to bowl 10 a.m. – 12 noon at the Oakwood Bowling Lanes in Washington, N.J. The cost is \$10, which includes the cost of a pair of shoes, if needed. This Saturday follows the week of VBS, so we hope to see many families attending.

The registration form for either or both events can be found in the church bulletin and online, or by contacting Bill Blaskopf at: bblaskopf@newarka.edu or 201-841-2284.

Finally, please remember, **UMM is not just for men**. We invite all members of Trinity to attend. Among our goals is to provide a sense of community, a meaningful presentation and a fantastic breakfast. Blessings to you all.

★ PRAY FOR AMERICA ★

UNITY

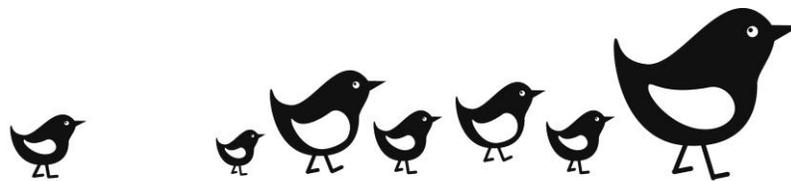
EPHESIANS 4:3

MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO KEEP THE UNITY
OF THE SPIRIT THROUGH THE BOND OF PEACE.

MAY 3, 2018

#PRAY4UNITY

NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

May 13th

Thank You

To My Many, Many Trinity Friends and Family,

How do I know God is good? Because He put all of you into my life. Thank you so much for all your prayers, hugs and love. Please know I miss all of you and again, thank-you for being in my Life.

Love, Vicki Hoffman

Dear Trinity Church Family,

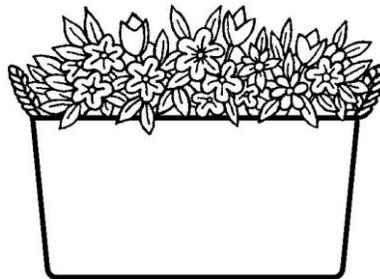
I pray that God's grace and mercy creates a brief moment of peace in your heart and spirit so I may share a story of love with you. They asked for two sentences, but I'm a talker.

Two weeks before last Christmas, I fell ill. And you should know that shortly after I came home, my family and I were so very greatly comforted with prayers and meals lovingly prepared from our Trinity family. I couldn't do it. I am not clear on who organized phone calls, shopped and prepared meals and delivered them to my front door hot and at the dinner hour. But that was huge for me. That was Love and Grace and MERCY.

When I came home from the hospital, I couldn't read anymore. Now I can. The phrase "nursed back to health" for me came through Trinity. Our Trinity family held onto us in a Holy and loving embrace. You showed up. You loved and nurtured my family and myself when I couldn't stand for more than a few minutes. I so greatly appreciate how you dutifully brought meals to my home. Meals came with huge smiles and loving patience with me when my speech and so much more felt awkward. Christ's inspired grace poured through the spirit and heart of my church family's hands has given great comfort, improved health and strength for life.

I wondered how can I say thank you to my church family. I hope this note works to express my deeply felt spirited gratitude and humbled "thank you" Trinity family. Please know and trust in the fact that God IS with us and hears the prayers of us all. Through God's grace and mercy and your prayers and The Hands for Christ continue to make miracle a huge verb in our lives.

Grateful Love, DeAdrienne Raines-Woodson



“It Is Good to Sing Praises to Our God.”

Psalm 147:1

Millie and Lee Hahn

We believe it was Divine intervention that led Lee and I to join the Trinity Methodist Church pilgrimage to the Holy Land in March, 2018. We have returned with renewed spirits as Christians. There were so many powerful, memorable, learning opportunities in the Holy Land. In this message, I would like to focus on the power of spiritual music and our singing together as a group as we journeyed in Israel.

I grew up as a Methodist listening to my mother play many of her favorite hymns on our piano. So these traditional songs are embedded in my memory. As a teacher, I have recognized that the music brain channel is a powerful learning mode — you can remember many things when put to music in song. We can all remember lyrics to pop songs of the 50s and 60s! As Christians, we praise God often through song. We can recall words and tunes from our memories easily.

While reviewing my trip journal, Lee and I have reminisced about the geographic locations and hymns in Israel that the group shared in voice. Perhaps the most powerful was singing *O Little Town of Bethlehem* at The Shepherds Field Church in Bethlehem! We then visited The Church of the Nativity, the manger and Jesus’ birthplace site.

We were *In the Garden*, the garden of Gethsemane, among 3,000-year-old olive trees and beautiful spring flowers. “I come to the garden alone, when the dew is still on the roses....and he walks with me and he talks with me and he tells me I am his own.” The garden was a quiet, reverent location and we felt His presence there.

At The Church of the Holy Sepulcher, we were standing *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*. The words of this traditional, inspirational hymn made us so aware of the holiness of this location. Our pilgrimage involved many miles of daily walking in this sacred land. The words of this hymn were always with us, *I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked* and felt His presence there, along the ancient path of Wind and Doves, at Capernaum, the Center of Jesus’ ministry by the shores of the Sea of Galilee, on the Mount of Olives, sitting on Jesus’ teaching steps in Jerusalem, walking in His last steps along The Via Dolorosa to Calvary, now inside The Church of The Holy Sepulcher, a quiet place of reverence and contemplation.

In conclusion, at sunset one day, our bus was descending from the desert hills, the city lights of Jerusalem in the far distance. It was quiet after a very long day, but then, this song played loudly on the audio system, *Jerusalem, Jerusalem hark how the angels sing, Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna to your King*. We all joined in song as we entered the Holy City that we had heard stories about since our childhood. “I will sing praises to my God.” (Psalm 146:2) We give thanks to God for our pilgrimage to the Holy Land, for our safe travels and experiences we shared together as Christians. The journey was certainly an educational opportunity, but above all, a time for us to better understand our Bible and to deepen our faith.

The Lord's Pantry

Kellie Pennington

Well, our largest food drive of the year is here! On Saturday, May 12th, the National Association of Letter Carriers will be hosting their annual "Stamp Out Hunger" Food Drive. On that day, post office workers across the country will be collecting food and donating it to local food banks and pantries.

Here's how it works:

On May 12th, please place non-perishable food items by your mailbox. Some examples of non-perishable foods are soup, canned fruits and vegetables, canned dinners and meats, cereal, juice, rice, beans, instant potatoes, pasta and sauce, macaroni and cheese boxes, and any other items that do not require refrigeration.

Your letter carrier will pick up the food while making your usual mail delivery. Please have your donation out early, and if you don't have a mailbox, your donation can be brought directly to the post office or our pantry.

The Hackettstown and Budd Lake post offices will be donating their collected food to us. You can help by placing food out at your mailbox that morning, or by donating your time to be a driver or a food sorter that afternoon. Watch for *Just Say Yes* forms to sign up.

For more information about this national food drive, you can find it at www.nalc.org/community-service/food-drive. There's a section for frequently asked questions that offers tips and ideas for your donation. **Thanks for supporting such an important cause!**

During the month of March we served 993 people (343 families): 273 children, 589 adults and 131 seniors.

Donate to the Pantry on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday,
9 a.m. – 12 noon, or take donations to the church office when it's open.

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What a blessing you can offer your church by including Trinity in your last will and testament. You can add a codicil to an existing will or include the church in a new will. Please consider this as a way to give one final gift to Trinity. For more information, contact Dr. Frank Fowler.
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Jr. Prayer Shawl Group

Attention Jr. Prayer Shawl small group members *AND* all who are interested in attending this small group fellowship ministry for kids, eight years old and older, who like to knit or crochet *OR* who want to learn to knit or crochet:

Our meeting this month will be on Wednesday, May 9th, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. in Room 104. Jr. Prayer Shawl meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Mrs. Thorp, Mrs. Huff, Mrs. Tuxhorn and Mrs. Neumann are looking forward to seeing you on the 11th. If you have any questions, please contact Ginny Thorp at gthorp@catchthespirit.org or 908-852-3020, ext. 16 or 908-894-0173.

Family Ministry Small Groups

Monday May 21	High School Fellowship Meets 1 st and 3 rd Mondays	7 – 8:30 p.m. Pami residence
Wednesday May 16, 30	High School Girls Meets 2 nd and 4 th Wednesdays	6:30 – 8 p.m. Upper Room
Wednesday May 16, 30	High School Boys' Group Meets 2 nd and 4 th Wednesdays	TBD
Wednesday May 9	Jr. Prayer Shawl Small Group (Ages 8 & older) Meets 2 nd Wednesday of the month	4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Room 104

4th and 5th Grade Fellowship

Students who are in 4th and 5th grades can sign up to help get the Trinity Garden ready for the growing season on May 7th and May 21st, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Questions, please contact Danielle Witt at dwitt@catchthespirit.org.



KidVenture Corner

May 6th

Music and Mission Sunday for “The Good Samaritan” unit. The children of KidVenture will sing songs about loving their neighbor and letting their light shine. Trinity’s prayer shawl ministry will also share with the children about how they spread God’s love and blessings to those who need it with hand knitted and crocheted shawls.

May 13th and May 27th

The children will rotate through movement, art and mission stations while learning about the story of The Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37. While the students are in art and mission, they’ll be sewing their own blessing cross that they can share with someone they know who could use some extra love.

May 20th

The children will be celebrating Pentecost and sharing their “The Heart of....” memory verse.

Creation Care

Carol Kitchell

May 12th is World Migratory Bird Day, begun in 1993 by the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, and directed by Environment for the Americas. This year, the theme is Year of the Bird – 365 Days of Bird Conservation. As good stewards of our earth, here’s some ways we can help our birds.

- ✓ Make your large windows more visible to birds by applying bird scare decals.
- ✓ Keep your cat indoors or on a leash. Millions of birds die from predatory house cats.
- ✓ Leave fledglings that have fallen out of the nest where you find them. Keep people and pets away.
- ✓ Clean your bird feeders regularly. Dirty feeders can spread disease.
- ✓ Restore natural habitat in your yard or community.
- ✓ Be a citizen scientist. Many projects need volunteers to gather data on birds.
- ✓ Avoid using toxic pesticides and herbicides.
- ✓ Native plants provide food, nest sites and shelter for birds.

God in Many Faces

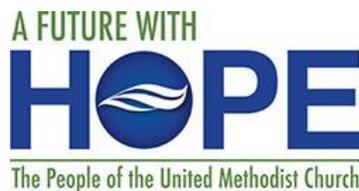
Every year, the World Press Freedom Day on May 3rd is a date which celebrates the fundamental principles of press freedom, to evaluate press freedom around the world, to defend the media from attacks on their independence and to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the exercise of their profession.

It serves as an occasion to inform citizens of violations of press freedom — a reminder that in dozens of countries around the world, publications are censored, fined, suspended and closed down, while journalists, editors and publishers are harassed, attacked, detained and even murdered. It's a date to encourage and develop initiatives in favor of press freedom, and to assess the state of press freedom worldwide.

The day acts as a reminder to governments of the need to respect their commitment to press freedom, and is also a day of reflection among media professionals about issues of press freedom and professional ethics. Just as importantly, World Press Freedom Day is a day of support for media which are targets for the restraint, or abolition, of press freedom. It is also a day of remembrance for those journalists who lost their lives in the pursuit of a story.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

In February for the anniversary of Martin Luther King's assassination, the National Council of Churches organized a three-day rally in Washington DC to end racism. The NCC also asked that 500 churches send a one-time donation of \$500 to defer costs. We're pleased to report that Trinity's missions committee agreed to make this donation upon the request of the God in Many Faces Social Justice Ministry Team.



A Future With Hope is the outbound mission arm of GNJ, meeting needs and providing hope for communities throughout New Jersey

A Future With Hope is now participating with Amazon Smile. Amazon will donate 5% of eligible purchases to A Future With Hope when you select them in your Amazon account. Register your account on Amazon.

2018 Trinity UMC Scholarships

Application deadline for scholarships: May 10, 2018 at 12 p.m. Application forms are available in the church office or via the church website. Please contact Pastor Don Gebhard at the church office with any questions.

The Sanman/Spender Scholarship for beginning and continuing students

The intent of this scholarship, first awarded in 1999 in memory of Ivan Sanman and Frank H. Spender, Jr., is to provide for an area high school senior or high school graduate (under age 21) to begin or continue their higher education at a college or trade school. The applicant must be accepted to or currently attend a college or trade school. The criteria for award of the scholarship are: character, Christian discipleship, community citizenship and financial need. The award may be divided among up to three applicants at the discretion of the scholarship committee. This scholarship is open to members of the community and does not require the applicant to be a member of Trinity.

The Leveto Scholarship for beginning and continuing students

The intent of this scholarship, awarded in memory of Lon Leveto, is for ministry students, high school seniors and adults seeking further higher education or trade school enrollment. Candidates should be a members of Trinity, have discipleship background in church and/or community.

The Mathias Severin Torgersen Memorial Scholarship for beginning students

The intent of this scholarship, first awarded in 2008 in memory of Rev. Matt Torgersen by the United Methodist Men, is to provide a high school senior to begin his/her higher education at a college or trade school. The applicant must be an active participant in the ministry of Trinity Church and a regular worship attendee. This scholarship is open to members of Trinity.

The Ryan James Cameron Scholarship for beginning and continuing students

The intent of this scholarship, first awarded in 2013 in memory of Ryan James Cameron, is to provide a high school senior or high school graduate (under the age of 21) to begin or continue his/her higher education at a four-year college. The applicant must be accepted or currently enrolled at a four-year college. The criteria for the award are: character, Christian discipleship, church and community service, and financial need. The award may be divided among up to two applicants at the discretion of the scholarship committee. The applicant should be a member of Trinity.

Ruth E. Frost Scholarship for beginning and continuing students

The intent of this scholarship, first awarded in 2017 in memory of Ruth E. Frost, is to assist church youth who have demonstrated health need, financial need or ill parents with his/her educational costs. The applicants will be evaluated on their Christian character (following the moral and ethical teachings of Jesus), Christian discipleship (displaying willingness to follow and serve Christ), financial need, health needs, or illness of a parent.

Continued....

Seelinger-Thompson Scholarship for post-graduate students

The intent of this scholarship, first awarded in 2017 in memory of George A. Seelinger and Katherine Thompson, is to assist those who are continuing education at the post-graduate level. Applicants must be accepted to or currently enrolled in a post-graduate program. The criteria for the award are: character, Christian discipleship, church and community service and financial need.

Nelson Scholarship for beginning students

The intent of this scholarship, first awarded in 1995 in memory of Norma G. Nelson, is to provide for a high school senior within the church who is continuing his/her higher education at a four-year college. The applicant must be accepted to a four-year college in pursuit of a bachelor's or comparable degree. The criteria for the award are: Christian character, Christian discipleship and financial need.

The Rev. Paul L. Wells Scholarship for beginning students

The intent of this scholarship, first awarded in 2018, is in honor of Rev. Paul L. Wells for 26 years of voluntary, dedicated and inspirational ministry, made possible by members of Trinity Church. This scholarship is meant to assist a high school senior to begin his/her higher education at a college or trade school. This scholarship is open to members of Trinity and must be an active participant in the ministry of Trinity and a regular worship attendee.

Anonymous Scholarship for beginning and continuing students

This scholarship will first be awarded in 2018. This scholarship is meant to provide a high school senior or current college student assistance with his/her higher education at a college or university. The recipient shall be engaged or intending to engage in the field of the humanities, as opposed to math or science. This scholarship is open to members of Trinity Church who are regular worship attendees.



Missions

Midnight Run

We travel to New York City to distribute food, clothing and toiletries to the homeless in several designated locations. Donate large or extra-large men's jeans, coats, hooded sweatshirts, shirts, gloves and jackets; blankets and wash cloths; men's shoes (all sizes, esp. 10 - 12); new men's underwear and socks; travel-sized shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, disposable razors, shaving cream and deodorant; tote bags; gallon-sized Ziploc[®] bags. Monetary donations accepted. Charlie Mule' (rivendellatlv@earthlink.net).

Interfaith Hospitality Network

Our guests are Warren County homeless in the process of seeking a place to live. We need people to help set up and break down, make meals and act as hosts. Hosting shifts are 5 – 9 p.m. and overnight at the church, 9 p.m. – 6:30 a.m. If you're a new host, we'll give you a short training session and you'll be paired with a veteran host. There's always two people hosting at a time. Mary Kashmanian (908-684-5362); Carol Munro (908-892-6536); Linda Gonia for food donations (908-813-3865).

The Thrift Shop

Donate clothes and household items in good condition. Hours for shopping are Tuesday – Saturday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday, 5 – 7 p.m. Donations can be dropped off Tuesday – Saturday, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at the Barn.

Connect for Community

The Lord's Pantry uses coupons from weekly newspaper fliers and magazines to help purchase much-needed items, including many that are free. One coupon from a weekly flier can translate into hundreds of items if enough folks bring it in. Place your unused coupons in the marked boxes located in the Rotunda, Trinity House and the Pantry.

Safe Harbor Ministry

The fourth Saturday of every month, we take a meal to residents of a homeless shelter in Easton, PA. We meet at Trinity's kitchen at 3 p.m., prepare the meal, depart for Safe Harbor at 5, serve dinner and eat with the residents, and then depart for home by 7 p.m. The cost is a share of the dinner expenses, depending on how many adults participate in the trip. Children are welcome to come with their parents. Cheryl Ferguson (908-798-1276; cherylferguson00@gmail.com).

Bread of Life Mission

Students in grades 6 – 12, their friends and families go to Newton to serve the homeless a meal. Cheryl Pami (732-735-0916 or cpami@catchthespirit.org).

Trinity's Prison Ministry

In-Prison Ministry: We offer 12-week classes at Northern State Prison, a men's institution. **Backpack Ministry:** This ministry provides released prisoners a few days' worth of essential items, including toiletries, clothing, food and a bible. **Correspondence Ministry:** Correspond with an inmate who's seeking to know Christ. Peter Smith (psmithtrc@gmail.com).

The View from Here

You can hold the knowledge that other people have it worse than you at the same time that you can hold the knowledge that what you're going through is very difficult or very painful. We all define what really unhinges us, what causes us distress or anxiety or anger or fear. And there are a myriad of variables. What knocks one person off the rails might not affect another in any significant way.

When others remind us or we tell ourselves that others are worse off in an effort to help us put our situation in perspective, we can know this is likely to be true. But when we buy into this line of thought guiltily or easily, the result is that our feelings and thoughts, indeed the experiences themselves, can feel diminished for us. We don't feel validated when what we're going through and feeling is real and often disabling, often encapsulating us in a climate of despair.

I once attended a Christian conference where the speaker began by lamenting over the terrible patch she had gone through, presumably to foster a sense of camaraderie and mutual identification. She wanted to connect in order to deliver her message. She related how the crucible that had gripped her was her son becoming a teenager with the transformations of personality that can beset a kid and the ensuing household rumpus. And she said her mother had gotten old and passed on in her 90s after traveling over the rocky road that such a transition can entail. I yawned and longed to tip over in my seat and doze off. Are you kidding me?

Well, okay, but since then I walked alongside my aging father until he departed and it was a nightmare. And I've come to truly understand that for some people, the loss of their parents, no matter how old, is a loss they feel for the remainder of their lives. And I've experienced how challenging people can be as they temporarily lose control when they go through rough changes.

Who really knows the inmost workings of any human heart? Are our powers of identification so accurate? Is it just too easy to make the standard remarks and lightweight observations? Is our well-meaning advice an attempt at one-size-fits-all solutions for the world's woes? Are we uncomfortable when faced with someone's overwhelming pain? Especially when it reminds us of our own vulnerability?

Jesus himself says *he* knows the inmost workings of our hearts, before and better than we know them ourselves. Maybe what we simply need to do is just be present to someone's suffering. Listen. Belay the advice unless it seems critical or wanted. Embrace and hold if that's acceptable. Bear witness. Sort of sit shiva with our fellow sojourners. Because sooner or later, we will need them to do so for us.

Be well and God bless, Carol

Serving God with Us in May

Chapel Ushers

May 6 Dennis & Pattie Huff
 May 13 Rob De Vos
 May 20 Bonnie Palma, Betty Cyphers
 May 27 Linda Feula, Sally Hahnes

Scripture Readers

May 6 Leah Vondette
 May 13 Joe Bristow
 May 20 Joanne Montross
 May 27 Linda Gonia

Greeters - 9:15

May 6 Liz & Bob Falco
 May 13 Michele Risley, Karen Riccobono, Linda Feci
 May 20 TBD
 May 27 TBD

Ushers – 9:15

May 6 Curtis Peirson, Glenn Ashton, Bob Doelfel, Karen Riccobono, Bette & Dave Sprandel, Bonnie & Darrell Hendricks
 May 13 Donna Re, Glenn Ashton, Carolyn Sunday, Edna Burton, Bette & Dave Sprandel, Dave Wahl, Carol Theys, Cris & Bob Hom
 May 20 Rich Bonte, Glenn Ashton, JoAnn & Mike Heembrock, Bette & Dave Sprandel, Linda Feci, Dave Wahl, Olivia Browns
 May 27 Curtis Peirson, Glenn Ashton, Bette & Dave Sprandel, Dave Wahl, Carol Theys, Sharon Roff, Bill Bippus, Tony Albanese

Ushers – 10:45

May 6 Nancy & Hank Snover, Nancy Soleau, Pat Mullen, Kathryn Twaddell, Joan Crouse, Bill Blaine, Gean Gallagher, Joan Roehrich, Vernon Kilkenny
 May 13 John Torkos, Shea Dibley, Pat Mullen, Mary Brigode, Dell & Alf Nicholas, Joan Crouse, Bill Blaine, Gean Gallagher, Roger Hammond
 May 20 Nancy & Hank Snover, Pat Mullen, Shea Dibley, Kathryn Twaddell, Joan Crouse, Bill Blaine, Gean Gallagher, Roger Hammond, Joan Roehrich
 May 27 John Torkos, Pat Mullen, Dell & Alf Nicholas, Joan Crouse, Bill Blaine, Gean Gallagher, Roger Hammond, Joan Roehrich, Linda McClune

Welcome Center – 9:15

May 6 Lou Ann Harris
 May 13 Gail & Bruce Howell
 May 20 Alice Davis, Carol Munro
 May 27 Joanne Stiehl, Reylvie & Robert Benanti

Welcome Center – 10:45

May 6 Cheryl Ferguson & Mike White
 May 13 Mike White & Cheryl Ferguson
 May 20 Robert & Reylvie Benanti
 May 20 TBD

Audio – 9:15
 May 6 Jacob Philhower
 May 13 Julie Ryan
 May 20 Keith Ryan
 May 27 Sandy Miko-Philhower

Audio – 10:45
 Steve Blazier
 Sandy Miko-Philhower
 Jacob Philhower
 Lori DeLorenzo

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