



OCTOBER 2021

# TRINITY CONNECTION



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY CHURCH



## WELCOME TO TRINITY CHURCH

If you are are a newcomer to the congregation please make yourself known to one of the clergy or to one of our ushers before worship.

### Pastoral Team

Rev. Dr. Tanya Linn Bennett - Interim Co- Lead Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Charlie McNeil - Interim Co-Lead Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Deb De Vos - Associate Pastor  
Rev. Jisun Nam - Associate Pastor  
Pastor Sharon Hoff - Congregational Care Pastor  
Ginny Thorp - Congregational Care Lay Minister

### Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday - 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Friday - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

### Worship Schedule

Saturday 5:00 pm - Worship in Trinity House  
Sunday 9:15 am & 10:45 am- Worship in Sanctuary  
and Livestreamed

# From the Pastors

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Greetings, Good People!

Spring is all about new beginnings with buds and blossoms and blooms, sometimes peeking out from a layer of snow. As true and as real as that is, September and October in the church are also all about new beginnings! Fresh starts with some previous programs which have taken a “normal” break over the summer coming back to life. Some other opportunities which have been dormant through Covid “shut down” are making a comeback. Some new programs are starting up fresh for the first time. So many new signs of life and new beginnings, even among the changing colors of fall!

Regardless of the time or the season, our Christian faith gives us eyes to see the repeated archetype of death and resurrection, Good Friday and Easter Sunday, the old patterns dying and new inspirations rising. It is “The Way” of death and Resurrection of which Jesus spoke when he said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but by me” (John 14:6). It’s not so much believing things about Jesus, but participating in “The Way” of death and resurrection, of letting go of the old and looking toward what God is making new. That’s when our lives get transformed! It is not about huddling in our preferred comfort zones, but listening to the Spirit of the Living Christ who beckons us into the future—here and now—that has been prepared for us by God to move forward in faith and follow the directive to “Go into the world....”

In spite of the undertow of Covid and the challenges it continues to create, we are “on the go.” We are moving forward. We are participating the movement from Good Friday, through Holy Saturday, toward Easter Sunday.... Again and again through our individual lives and through the life of our congregation here at Trinity regardless of the time or season.

As we see signs of new life in this new program year, please pay attention to all of the groups, programs, studies, ministries, and missions that are available. Some that have been consistently, faithfully serving all along and some which are the newly forming or newly resurrected opportunities available to us. This is a chance to very practically be a part of putting into practice the prayer we pray every week, “Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” We are part of the Kingdom right here on earth. We are the Easter people, not just in the spring, but all through the year. We are those who are willing to be a part of God’s work... and in the process of participating in those ministries, we discover a transformation into new life, new love, new hope, new meaning, and new purpose!

How are you planning on being (re-)plugged in, renewed, re-energized, re-connected ... and open to the promise of resurrection... once again?

Peace!

Tanya and Charlie

# Good News! from Your Missions Ministry Team

*By Glenn Ashton & Joan Caldwell*

## Caravan of Hope IV - 09/25/21

1 day - 4,000 meals delivered!

### THANK YOU!

To the Caravan of Hope leaders, Jane DeWitt, Glenn Ashton, Maureen Boer, Dennis Quirk, Pat Riegler, Jerry Vinella, Peter and Mui Sewell, Barbara Madaras, Marsha Salmon, Tom Kimpland and Christine Weiser, for their work and dedication to this mission.

To the congregation, to the Centenary University students, to our community Girl Scout troops and to all the neighbors that volunteered to make a difference in people's lives.



Thank you to our donors:

David Paulussen DMD, Village Family Chiropractic LLC, Toscana Italian Restaurant, Scala Memorial Home, Changewater UMC, Iuvone Family Dentist, Weis Markets, Panther Valley Pharmacy, Manhire Opticians, First Hope Bank, Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Salon Jimarjo, Gallagher's Plumbing & Heating, Duke's Landscaping, Century 21 Real Estate Hackettstown, Wire's Electric, Tranquility Farms, Treelicious Orchards, Perona Farms, General Partition, and Innovative Packaging Solutions.

You are ALL a blessing!



**Donations** - UMCOR - earthquake relief in Haiti; Pastor Ronald via DaySpring Ministries - earthquake relief in Haiti; fulfilled our commitment to Miracles Everywhere; DaySpring Ministries - fund for repairing/rebuilding homes and churches in Haiti.

**Speaker** - Rev. Mandy Bristol Leverett made an informative and eye-opening presentation at our September meeting re: Church & Community Abolition Network (human trafficking). For information on this important topic, click on [www.canfreedom.org](http://www.canfreedom.org).

# Ministering Opportunities

**UNTO** - There will be a Fall Packing Event at the Global Logistic Center (Mt. Joy, PA), October 19-23. Help needed for packing used and new clothes, shoes, school supplies, feminine hygiene packs, etc.; there may also be opportunities to pack seeds and/or rice/beans/lentils meals. Both children and adults are welcome! For more information and to register, click on [Here](#). You can also email me at [jmcaldwell512@gmail.com](mailto:jmcaldwell512@gmail.com).



**MISSION PACKING PROJECT  
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**



**Truck Stop Ministry Cookie Project** - It is time to start baking! Last December we were able to pack 600+ bags of 1 dozen homemade cookies (along with holiday candy & a Christmas message) for distribution at the Truck Stop on I-80 in Columbia, NJ. Help us break last year's record! A "cookie walk" (packing the bags) will be held on Saturday morning, December 18.



## The Lord's Pantry

*By Kellie Pennington*

We are entering our busiest season, and will again be distributing complete Thanksgiving dinners in November. Due to the ongoing pandemic we will not be having our annual congregational food drive, but you can still help! Donations of turkeys and food items can be brought to the pantry when we are open. Monetary donations to help purchase turkeys can be sent to the church office, with checks marked "The Lord's Pantry" in the memo. Thank you for making the holiday a little brighter for people in need.



We are open on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings from 9:00 - 12:00, and Tuesday night from 5:00 - 7:00. Anyone who needs food assistance is welcome, without any proof of need or other documentation. Our ministry is available to all.

During the month of August we served 606 people (198 families): 170 children, 360 adults and 76 seniors.

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# Ministering Opportunities

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## The Thrift Shop

*By Maureen Storey*

Halloween has made its debut in the shops, and the Christmas Closet is bursting with all things for the holidays (opening October 2nd). We even have a take on Autumn weddings- they are not just for June! Check out our bridal catalog [HERE](#).

The Thrift Shop has lots of room for those wanting to share their time and talent. Here is a brief list of the things that people do with us: Donations intake, sorting and testing new items, minor repairs, upcycling, pricing, staging furniture, merchandising, flat layout of clothing for photos and posting online, window dressing, packing up unsold items, selling, cash register checkout, online posting, making the shops look great!



Think about how you can help the missions and ministries that benefit so many others. Last month we donated \$700 which was collected in the Thrift Shop to the Caravan of Hope. This helped to feed 4,000 lunches to people in need. What talents do you have to share that can make a difference? Volunteer!

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## Staying Connected

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### Martha's Circle

*By Virginia Bormann*

We will meet the first Monday of the month beginning October 4th at 2:00pm in our usual Heath Room. All women are invited from Heath Village as well as Trinity church members and friends even husbands and boyfriends! We have a variety of programs. Our meetings are lots of Fun and Fellowship. Something for everyone. October will be our Annual Friendship Tea and Uncle Claude will serenade with his Oldies but Goodies songs.

Lauren Mount and Ginny Bormann will continue to co-lead this group. Join us we know you will have some delightful afternoons.

If you have any questions call Ginny Bormann at 908-852-6431.

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# Staying Connected

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## United Methodist Men

By Bill Blaskopf

Saturday September 11th marked our return to meeting in person. 21 people were in attendance. Thanks go to Fred Borman who made the arrangements for breakfast sandwiches and coffee to be available to all in attendance. Thanks also to Pastor Charlie for the invocation, Fred for the devotion, and Bill Blaskopf for leading our discussion "Where were you on September 11th, 2001?"

The UMM will have our monthly breakfast on Saturday October 9th at 8am in Starr Hall. Our speaker will be Mr. Chandrakant Mehta who will speak on "What it means to be a Jain." Mr. Mehta will be the fourth speaker in our continuing series "Understanding our Neighbors." You may want to find an intro to this ancient Indian religion, Jainism, by googling it.

The UMM asks people to RSVP to Bill Blaskopf at 201-841-2284 or at [bblaskopf@newarka.edu](mailto:bblaskopf@newarka.edu) by Wednesday October 6th at 6pm.

Oct 23 to Nov 21 will be our 3rd Annual Christmas Wreath Sale. Make Sure you order yours!

The UMM invites all members of Trinity to join us in sharing community and a commitment to our God. Remember, UMM is not just for men.

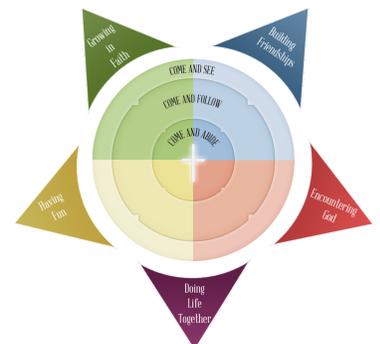
*"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."  
~ Jesus*

## Small Groups Starting in October

By Rev. Dr. Deb De Vos

- **Defying Gravity** - Our possessions can create unbearable weight and affect our ability to serve and thrive. How do we defy gravity and find freedom. In this 4-week small group study, pastor and author Tom Berlin explores what is required to sustain a vibrant life, what we need versus what we want, and what we can do to avoid being pulled into the orbit of materialism.
- **Justice or Just Us?** - Confronting racism is not just a social or political matter, but a theological one. It is the Bible that calls us to pursue justice, and the Bible that calls us to oppose racism. Justice or Just Us? is a four-week video curriculum based on a sermon series and anti-racism commitment at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Indianapolis. Pastors Rob Fuquay, Nicole Caldwell-Gross, and Jevon Caldwell-Gross help you acknowledge the reality of racism in our world today, as well as our Christian responsibility to oppose it as individuals and together as the church.
- **Spiritual Gifts Inventory and Discipleship Path** - A Spiritual Gifts Inventory or Assessment helps individuals identify their God-given gifts for living faithfully as Christian disciples day by day and find meaningful ways to use their gifts in connection with others through the community of faith. The Trinity Discipleship Path is a framework that helps us to live more fully into our call to be and make disciples for the transformation of the world and to be a fellowship seeking to share the love and word of Jesus Christ with all.

You can learn more about Small Groups Programming and Sign up on our website [www.caththespirit.org](http://www.caththespirit.org). If you have any questions please contact Pastor Deb at [ddevos@catchthespirit.org](mailto:ddevos@catchthespirit.org)



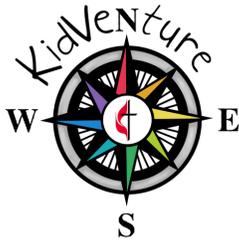
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# Children's and Student Ministry News

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## Children's Ministry

By Melissa Browns



After using Orange this past year, we took feedback to find the best fit for our Trinity Families. We selected Grow which has a format similar and encourages family discipleship.

It allows for both flexibility online and in person. Most importantly, Grow scope ad sequence will take kids through every major Bible story in three years. At the end of three years, we'll start over! We spend an equal amount of time in the Old and New Testaments. Moreover, all our prek - fifth grade students sequence together, although older students will delve into a bit more material. We begin with a focus on spiritual gifts before moving onto our first Old Testament lesson.

## Middle School Ministry

By Renee Feldman

Our Middle School Ministry will consist of weekly programs designed to help teenagers grow in the spiritual habits of spending time with God and others,



identifying and using their gifts, and sharing their story. MSM also includes the use of small groups and several big events throughout the year designed to strategically invite teenagers on a journey into deeper relationships with their peers, leaders, and Jesus.

## P.R.A.Y. Ministry (Programs of Religious Activities for Youth)

Help young people develop a deeper relationship with God and to understand how God is active in their lives and in the world around them, using Bible lessons paired with service projects to help young people not only to grow in Christian faith but to also express their faith by reaching out in love and in service to others. For any scout families, the program fulfills the requirements for religious awards earned by Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Camp Fire groups.

Adults are welcome to participate in the Mentor Program which allows you to learn alongside your child.

Four levels are being offered. The cost of this group is \$7 per child; \$5 per adult for the Mentor Program. Upon completion, pins and/or patches may be purchased at an additional cost.

If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer to lead a group, please contact Renee Feldman at [rfeldman@catchthespirit.org](mailto:rfeldman@catchthespirit.org)



The  
P.R.A.Y.  
Program

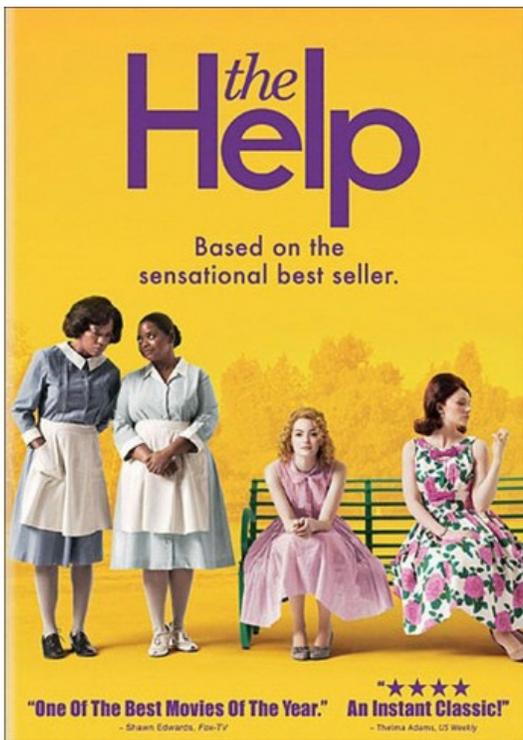
*I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.  
~ 3 john 1:4*

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# Upcoming Events

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- **World Communion Weekend, October 3rd-** Each month families will gather together at the 9:15 service and partake in communion. No KidVenture classes will be held. Our first family service will be on World Communion weekend.
- **The Help - Movie and Discussion.** Sunday, October 3 at 12:45 pm in Trinity House followed by a discussion. Based on an incredible book. The Help takes place in 1960's Mississippi, where a young journalist roils her community when she interviews the domestic staffs who serve the town's wealthy white families but have remained largely invisible until now.



- **Service of Prayer and Healing** - Wednesday, October 13 at 7:00 pm, both in-person in the Sanctuary and live-streamed. This service will be different than the Healing Services that we have held in the past. Our focus will be on grief and our feelings of lament, abandonment, anger, and brokenness. Throughout the service, we will lift our hearts in prayer as we move from despair to hope, assurance and praise. And throughout the service, we will also be lifting up prayers of healing for those people and situations that are on our hearts, spoken and unspoken. Scripture, prayers, poems, and other readings will be interspersed with names of those for whom prayers have been requested.

- **P.R.A.Y Program Information Meeting**, October 10 from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm. All children in Grades K – 12, including Boy & Girl Scouts are welcome, no matter if or where you attend church.
- **Fall Day Apart** - Join us October 23 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at Waterloo UMC on Waterloo Rd. in Stanhope, as we create some space for quiet reflection and prayer. Lunch and refreshments are included. Further details and directions will be provided after signup. If you can only come for part of the day, you are welcome. The cost is \$25. To sign up, contact Pastor Deb at [ddevos@catchthespirit.org](mailto:ddevos@catchthespirit.org) or 973-479-0384.

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# Announcements

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## **Birth Announcements**

Congratulations to Danielle and Michael Riccobono, on the birth of their son Brandon Hayes Riccobono, and grandson of Karen Riccobono.

## **With Deepest Sympathy**

To Mui and Peter Sewell and family on the death of her father.

*The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit  
~Psalm 34:18*