



MAY 2022

# 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 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 Pastor

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Friday, April 22, 2022, was officially national Earth Day. We might have all taken a moment to remember our relationship with the planet on which we live. The Earth Day website has some suggestions for ways in which we could observe Earth Day, listing:

- · Visit National Parks Virtually.
- · Smithsonian Learning Lab.
- · Organize a Neighborhood Safari.
- · Start a Seed Jar.
- · Create a Play Garden.
- · Go Paperless!

All are good suggestions, and ideas we might take to heart. But, I wonder if there is a way that Earth Day (followed closely by Arbor Day at the end of April) helps us to refigure the way we live with the earth, the planet that sustains all life that is slowly dying, groaning under the weight of the mistreatment it has endured for generations. Do we consider the ways our human habits have punished the very creation God planned where all creatures would live together in harmony, peacefully and with abundance?

We remember the creation story from the book of Genesis; the last creatures made were human beings:

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." (6) And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

The notion of "dominion" has been misconstrued by humans as domination, as complete control, particularly those who make economic and political decisions about how to use the earth for human gain. As we know, this has brought us to a climate crisis where planetary life, including human life, is threatened beyond our comprehension, as the planet crumbles, as the climate becomes increasingly out of control, and the most unnatural natural disasters continue to plague the earth and those who live on it relentlessly and with increasing savagery.

We are in the season of Eastertide. The word "easter" seems to go back to the name of a pre-Christian goddess in England, Eostre, who was celebrated at beginning of spring. In this season of new life, of Easter, of springtime, perhaps we could compose our own list of how our human habits might be transformed to treat the earth, our home, God's creation for our abundant lives, more kindly, in a way that nurtures it back to life. There are plenty of sources for information. I list just one here: <https://www.goodenergy.co.uk/the-ultimate-20-step-guide-to-eco-friendly-living/>. How can we take this Earth Day opportunity to reconsider our approach to human life on a living earth? How can we be true to God's call to have dominion, caretaking not domination, over the creation that God has made for all of us so that we might have life and have it abundantly?

May the rising of the One God sent to save us inspire us to be more mindful and present to the health and wellbeing of all of God's creation.

Thanks be to God.  
Peace—Pastor Tanya



# Good News! from Your Missions Ministry Team

By Joan Caldwell



## Martha's Friendship Circle

By Joan Caldwell

A lovely time was had by all who attended the April meeting of Martha's Friendship Circle at Heath Village! Every one wore a hat celebrating the arrival of Spring!

After greetings by Ginny Bormann, her grandson Christian sang "Were You There?", which reminded us all of the meaning of this Lenten/Easter season. Ginny then read "The Celebration" by Max Lucado. Lauren Mount led us in prayer and a recitation of the UMW Purpose.

Then the fun began! We had make-your- own ice cream sundaes, accompanied by delicious Heath Village cookies! Four games of bingo were played (Fred Bormann was the caller), and the winners each won a packet of pretty greeting cards made by Wahneta Bears.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, May 2, at 12:30 p.m. (Please note the time change.) It will be our annual Spring Luncheon; cost will be around \$14, payable by credit card when you arrive. Please make an advance reservation by calling Ginny Bormann.



*The whole earth is filled with awe at Your wonders; where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy. ~Psalm 65:8*

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# Ministry Opportunities

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## United Methodist Men

*By Bill Blaskopf*

On April 9th our speaker was Ms. Linda Barth. Linda is a published NJ author. She spoke on the topic: "The Garden State: Where Ideas Grow," which is also the name of one of her books. Linda focused on some of the many inventions that have occurred in NJ. NJ is known for so much more than M&M's. Twenty-seven people attended the breakfast. Her presentation included not only pictures of many of the inventions, she also had examples of several inventions with her.

On Saturday April 16th, Mr. Tim Roth, from the New Jersey Canal Society, returned and met us at the Harvey St. entrance to Florence Kuiper's Park. He then guided us along the section of the canal that still exists here in Hackettstown and explained what we were seeing as we traveled along the tow path.

Our May 14th speaker will be Mr. Joel Demnitz. Joel's presentation "Biblical Authority" will address the questions: What is the Bible? Why should I give it my attention and why should I place myself under its authority?

As a teaser, please stay alert for a description of our upcoming June meeting.

Always remember, Everyone is invited to UMM breakfasts. Among our goals is to provide: a sense of community, a meaningful presentation, and a fantastic breakfast.



## "Good News!" From Your Mission Ministry Team

*By Joan Caldwell*

1) The speaker at our May meeting was Leah Wandera, an African Deaconess in the United Methodist Church and the founder & CEO for WEMA Health Foundation - a Kenyan NGO striving for healthy living and educational advancement for girls and young adult women living in Kenya.

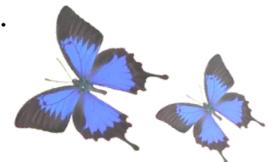
As a result of hearing her presentation, your Missions Ministry Team voted to sponsor two girls for a full year of boarding school at a cost of \$1,085 each.

(For more information about Leah and WEMA, please see the TMMT bulletin board in the hallway leading to Starr Hall.)

2) Trinity's annual "Women Growing in Faith Retreat" will be held October 14-15 at the Star Lake Camp/Conference Center in Bloomingdale, NJ. Your Missions Ministry Team voted to donate \$1,500 to help with the costs of this retreat.

## Hands-On Missions

*By Joan Caldwell*



Your opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus packing humanitarian aid at the UNTO Global Logistics Center in Mt. Joy, PA. There will be a Mini Mission Packing Project on Saturday, May 14th, and then a larger Mission Packing Project held June 21-25.

Go to [www.unto.com/get-involved](http://www.unto.com/get-involved) and click on volunteer for information and to register. Questions can also be directed to Joan Caldwell at [jmcaldwell512@gmail.com](mailto:jmcaldwell512@gmail.com)

Want to know what the "Trinity Missions Ministry Team" is doing? Check out our bulletin board...on the right of the hallway entering Starr Hall. We are continuing with previous mission ministry outreach, but moving into some new areas as well! It is very exciting!!

# Ministry Opportunities

## Appalachia Service Project

By Carolyn Nicholas

Applications are now being accepted! We'll be traveling to central Appalachia the week of July 17. If you are currently a high school freshman or older you qualify! No experience necessary, just a willingness to serve by helping repair substandard housing and share God's love for all. Use the Adult ASP application or the Youth ASP application on Trinity's website or contact Carolyn Nicholas [canick1256@gmail.com](mailto:canick1256@gmail.com)

## Spring Small Groups

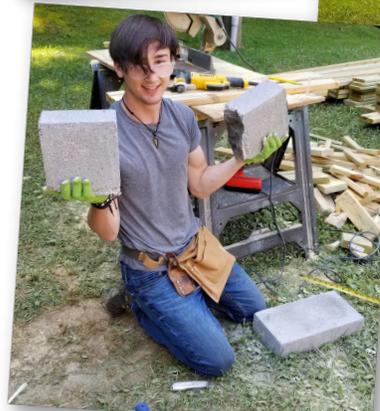
By Rev. Dr. Deb De Vos



**The Beatitudes** – Join us as we study Jesus' words known as the Beatitudes. This group led by Pat Riegler will be using the book "Sermon on the Mount" by Emmett Fox. We'll meet for 6 weeks via Zoom on Wednesdays beginning on May 11, 2022 from 7-8:30. All are welcome to participate as we look to deepen our understanding of Jesus's words.

**Christian and United Methodist Continuums Small Group**- Just as there are many different "flavors" of being a Christian, there are many different "flavors" of being a United Methodist. Where might you find yourself along the different continuums. Come and find out. This group led by Rev. Dr. Charlie McNeil will be meeting in person on Mondays from 7-8:30pm beginning on May 9th.

Use JUST SAY YES or email Pastor Deb at [ddevos@catchthespirit.org](mailto:ddevos@catchthespirit.org) to sign up!



**ASP**  
Appalachia  
SERVICE PROJECT®

## What Made Pastor Frank's Ministry Special

By Paul Wells

Worship

*Years ago, Jan and I were looking for a church to attend and to be a part of. After reading Pastor Frank's meditation in the Upper Room's "Disciples" book, we realized that he was the pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church in Hackettstown. This was only a half hour away from where we lived so we decided to come visit Trinity.*

*That very first Sunday we found what we were looking for. Real meaningful worship!!! The second Sunday we were out of town. The third Sunday we were back at Trinity. On our way out, Pastor Frank said to us, "We missed you last Sunday!" WOW! That was the kind of pastor Frank was! And that was the beginning of 30+ years at Trinity! We believe we were led by God. And our lives have been blessed by Pastor Frank's ministry.*

*When new members sign information cards found in the pews, Frank would call them that afternoon and welcome them to Trinity. That is how Trinity began to grow to some 1800 membership.*

*He was always available to everyone. He had a listening heart that was filled with love. Through his life, his preaching helped us grow in our Christian life. His sermons were an inspiration! There was no condemning, no fault finding, no name calling, no accusing. Just the love of Jesus, that inspired our lives. He helped us become better Christians.*

*Our lives are a journey and he helped us along the way. We are still working at it, but what a help he has been. During his ministry Trinity went from 1 service to 4 in an effort to reach everyone. How often I have said, "You are preaching to me!" Biblical centered but how it applied to me today!*

*Frank always kept abreast of new challenges. For instance, the development of small groups, Saturday Night Worship, KidVenture, feeding the 5,000 in the Caravan of Hope, Blue Service, Christmas Eve service etc.*

*Once when Frank was nominated for Bishop at our Annual Conference, he rejected it. He believed he was called by God to be a PASTOR. And that was what he wanted to be. We were blessed here at Trinity because of that decision.*

*Frank's ability to pick outstanding lay people to administer, teach, lead, and provide the great ministry of the Trinity family.*

*Frank taught us that Trinity church is a Fellowship Seeking to Share the Love and Word of Jesus Christ with All! And above each door in our church reads... "You are entering into the mission field."*

*In Christ,  
Paul*



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## Announcements

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### With Deepest Sympathy

To Scott and Leah Vondette and family on the death of his sister, JaneLee Vondette  
To the family and friends of Anne McClane  
To Karen and Rich Bonte on the death of her mother, Annabelle Estell Bauerle  
To Danielle and Dan Witt and family on the death of her father, Daniel Witt



### Baptisms

On April 24th we celebrated the Baptism of  
Harper Rae Carletta the daughter of Michael and Morgan Carletta and John Wolters Clayton the son of  
Tim and Ashley Clayton

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## Coming Events

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- **Family Ministry Worship Service**, Sunday May 1st, 9:15 am and 10:45 am
- **Martha's Friendship Circle**, May 2nd at 12:30 pm, Heath Village
- **Service of Prayer and Healing**, Thursday, May 5th , 7:00 pm in the Rotunda
- **Bread of Life**, Saturday May 7th, First Presbyterian Church, 54 High Street in Newtown.  
Volunteers needed! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050f48a4a629a4fa7-bread2>
- **UMM Breakfast**, Saturday, May 14th beginning at our usual 7:45 am, Starr Hall

*He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth. ~ Psalm 104:14*