Lead Pastor’s Message

I don’t want to give you the wrong impression. I know my parents taught me well, and one of the things they taught me was to be okay with being vulnerable. Even though, from time to time, my mom would counsel me to be wise and respectful when I was responding to my dad lecturing me, they both encouraged me to put myself out there, to take risks, and to trust good people.

Yet, for me, vulnerability has not always been an easy space to live in. It has been uncomfortable. It has made me feel emotionally unprotected as I have occasionally made intentional decisions to let my guard down, to allow the good and the bad in, to be open-minded, and subject myself to someone else’s feedback and good intentions.

I do thank God because, most of the time, as a pastor, my vulnerability has been reciprocated by someone else’s willingness to share personal stories and struggles. However, there have been times when I have had to ask God for courage as I have navigated through negativity, through my own inner doubts, and through my ability to respond with as much humility as I can muster, so that I am able to open up and trust again.

A couple of months ago, I read the book “Dare to lead” by renowned author and speaker, Brené Brown. In it she says that ‘vulnerability is not winning or losing. It’s having the courage to show up when you can’t control the outcome.’ In her book, she invites her readers to “rumble” with vulnerability, “to show up with an open heart and mind so we can serve the work and each other...”

Indeed, being vulnerable may often feel like losing, but it is always about showing up and being ourselves regardless of the outcome. Entering into any conversation with our guard down is no easy job, but it may be the only way to share God’s love to a world that often feels cautious and indifferent. I am also afraid that a sense of control isn’t the only other thing we have lost over this never ending pandemic - one which has tested our resolve, our way of living, and even our own care for each other.

You may or may not agree with me but I am talking about our trust. How do we regain our trust for each other? Not, how do we go back to being who we used to be but, how do we pick ourselves back up and move forward, together?

I know those questions don’t have an easy answer. Like vulnerability, hard questions always require courage, because more often than not courage demands more than what we are often willing to give, but it is a courage that cannot be separated from God’s grace.

The times ahead may require more than what some of us may be willing to give, or to forgive, or to let go of, or to rediscover, or to reimagine, or to heal or even to light the way for others who just can’t see the way. But to paraphrase what Dr. Tony Campolo said, “it is Friday but Easter is coming,” and with Easter, there is hope for more trust, more love, more courage, and more of whom God calls us to be.

Pastor René
Prayers, Sympathies, Thanks, New Administrator & Rose Window

Please Pray For Our Members & Friends:

Marilyn Adamo, James Bedard (Bridget’s brother), Birnie Bickford, (Jacki Barden’s uncle), Steve Clark, Margaret (Peg) Comisso, Denis Childs (Keith Northwood’s cousin), Dominick Ellison, Heather Frinlayson-Brassard (Bridget Bedard’s cousin), Shirley Furey, Donell Jones (Gina’s son), Annie Kapet, Christopher Lopez, Katherine Lovell, Ann Macey, (friend of Ginny Young), Sharon Missino, Erin Odell, Sue Pegoraro, Daryl Pennington, Claire (LaPierre) Pisarcik, Larry Ratté, Catherine Ann Richardson, Ann Baker Riker, Beverly Rubeck (Joanne Brown’s mother), Margaret Shafer (friend of Jacki Barden), Jean Schenk, Jane Schneeloch, Madeline Snyder (David Snyder & Monica Ardolino’s granddaughter), Lynn Tallman, Betty Terigliaera, Gary Turner, Mary (Twining) Grocott (Nate Twining’s sister & Camille’s sister-in-law), Norma Wanegar, Alison Wilgus, our service men, women, their loved ones, and recently activated national guard, the reserves, and other agencies.

We Share Our Deepest Sympathy and Prayers to:

Trinity member, Margo Sweetland and family, as she mourns the passing of her brother-in-law, Harland Rounds, Jr., after a long battle with cancer. Harland passed away on February 6, 2021 in VT.

Trinity Nursery School and Kindergarten remembers Ann Burnett, who passed away on February 1, 2021. Ann joined the staff in the 1980’s and spent many years with the four year old class in the Junior Achievement Room. She was a wise and understanding teacher, encouraging each child to grow both socially and emotionally. There were many opportunities to read and to sing in her class. Ann had a large notebook of seasonal, holiday, and fun songs. She played the piano (which was in the classroom) and all the children gathered around to join in. Mrs. Burnett served young children and their families well and we are grateful for her dedication to Trinity Church and the Nursery School.

Dear Trinity Church,

Thank you so much for the generous gifts that you have given me over the past year. I am very blessed to be a part of such a supportive congregation, and thankful as well. I will continue to do this role for the congregation which I happily enjoy doing!

Thanks again!
Nic Odell

A Huge Thank You to All Who Helped with the Lenten Bags

For the energy and creativity that went into selecting content, for assembling nearly 70 bags, for sorting tiny seeds, for making deliveries, for sharing in conversation, for all the ways you’ve reached out and helped, I am truly grateful. This project was wonderful in so many ways. Way to go, team!

Thank you Rachel Smythe, Leslie Hastings, Karen Sheffield, Beth Pajak, Camille Twining Ray Miller, Barbara Hill, Becky Isaacson, Lisa Rosenman, Brian Crawford, Andrea Rust, Teri LaFleur, and Devin and Morgan Bengel. You’re amazing!

With Gratitude,
Pastor Erin

March Rose Window

March 4 - In loving memory of Pauline, from Judy and Paula.

March 10—Anonymous
District UMW Meeting

"Finding Peace In An Anxious World" is the timely topic for a District UMW ZOOM meeting on Saturday, April 10 from 1 - 3 p.m. Sound interesting? Contact Arlene Mackie for further details.

Women’s Book Club

Beartown by Fredrik Bachman will be the book we will discuss at the Tuesday, March 23 Zoom meeting of the Women’s Book Club at 7 p.m.

This novel by the author of #1 New York Times’ bestselling A Man Called Ove centers on the people of Beartown, a hockey town that has seen better days, but now has a chance to compete in the national semi-finals. Much rests on the shoulders of a few teenage boys, their coaches, and management team. Although hockey is at the heart of this story, it is more about loyalty, commitment, and the responsibilities of friendship.

Upcoming books to be discussed: The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett on April 27, and Migrations by Charlotte McConaghy on May 25.

All women are welcome to join. Be sure to contact Jane Schneeloch to get the link.

Trinity’s Dance Movement Choir Started Virtual Rehearsals

Dance Movement Choir is now meeting via zoom rehearsals to create our next piece. Please join us, and help contribute to our worship service and community through your presence. Presently, we are rehearsing through zoom, and then filming creatively! Rehearsals meet 3:30 pm on Sundays, and run through March 28. We hope you will join us. No dance experience is needed, just an understanding that worship can move beyond words.

Please contact Amelia amelia@dramastudio.org for more information. You can leave a message with Pastor Erin or the church office.

Birthdays, (Italics) Wedding Anniversaries, (S)-Staff

PRIVATE INFORMATION

Please Join us in Celebrating This 75 & Every 5 Years Thereafter, Milestone Birthday in February.

Milestone Anniversaries 5 years & Every 5 years after.
Chapel Kids Resumes Outdoors

For all Chapel Kids ages 7 - 12, we will be having Chapel Kids OUTDOORS at Trinity for the month of March. We will be masked, safely spaced, and together again on our wonderful lawn to create a worship service together. We can't wait to see you, and to once again worship together with you as Chapel Kids.

We will continue to assess and revise the details, but here is the current plan for March:

- Chapel Kids Service will run outside, once the inside service has begun at 10:30 am.
- If you come early, you may go into the sanctuary with your families, and the ushers will make sure you are seated in a place where you can easily exit as the announcements start.
- If your family will not be attending the inside service, your family should park in the side lot, by the Forest Park side, and then you can cross the lawn when you see us gather by the garden.
- At the conclusion of our Chapel Kids Service, we will go up into the back balcony of the sanctuary (masked and spaced apart), or you will be escorted back to your family in the side lot.
- If we need to return to the Chapel Kids space after the main service to do something LOUD or prep for Palm Sunday, we will make that clear to you before you return.
- Dress warmly! If the weather is really bad, we will announce any cancellations on the website, so make sure you check if you are wondering.
- Masks!
- Please follow all Trinity’s CDC policies (such as not attending if you are not feeling well). Please see the website for full information.
- Any questions: please contact Amelia.
- Bring your prayers, your presence, your questions, and, as always, your courage to share your hearts and minds as we create a prayerful, joyous, fun, serious, silly, Chapel Kids Service!

Resource/Book of the Month

Daneen Akers' Holy Troublemakers & Unconventional Saints. This book is great for middle schoolers, high schoolers, and adults! Read about a different spiritual leader a day. The book includes people from different countries, backgrounds, faith traditions, gender identities and sexual orientation, and times in history. And, there are some pretty cool illustrations too.

Lenten Prayer Playlist

Trinity put together a playlist of Trinity youth reading the prayers they wrote for the prayer booklet. You can find the playlist here:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0aH-0lgfTIfL9WciEMX4De6vC8ik5tV

Kids’ Month at Trinity—Coming this April!

What to expect: Kid-Friendly/Family-Friendly Worship, Kids as worship leaders, Celebration, Children’s Moments, Games and Resources, Special Projects, In-person, At-Home, & Virtual Options, Music & Movement, and more!
Holy Week & Lenten Bible Study Opportunity

Holy Week at Trinity

(Please remember that, until further notice, the Sanctuary’s seating capacity is 75. Once we reach that capacity, people will be automatically moved to the overflow room in the primary room. We ask for everyone to wear their mask and keep their social distance.)

Good Friday Worship Service – Friday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday, April 3 at 11:00 a.m. on Trinity’s front lawn.

This event is being sponsored by the Membership and Evangelism Committee. Stay tuned for more information in the Thursday Thoughts emails and/or the announcements during worship, as it gets closer.

Easter Worship Services - 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. in Sanctuary.

If you plan to attend, we are requiring everyone to register their attendance prior to coming. More information on how to register will be available in future Thursday Thoughts.

Lent is about new beginnings…

At its core, Lent is about new beginnings. It is a journey to deep reflection and transformation. During the season of Lent, which starts on Ash Wednesday, we take a leap of faith into an untried path that can potentially lead us to a closer relationship with God and with other people. Lent can be the un-treaded and obscure path that leads us into the light of Christ. It is God’s way of helping us understand each other’s suffering and brokenness, yet lead us to healing and wholeness.

I think we all need that. During this time in our lives, Lent might as well be God’s gift for us to experience a new life with renewed hope, in a whole new way, as a new beginning. As we enter into this season of Lent, I invite us to reflect deeper on our faith.

At Trinity, we have created a few opportunities during this time:

1. Pick up a daily Lenten Devotional at the church office – This Lenten Devotional was designed by Sanctified Art, and it draws on the idea of finding ourselves “again and again” being invited, called, loved and held together by God. If you would like a copy of it, it is free and it can be picked up at the office. You will only need to call ahead.

2. Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. – Join the Lenten Bible Study via zoom - the series will also be based on the devotional “again and again” by Sanctified Art, and take us through Lent following Jesus’ Journey to Jerusalem and towards the cross.
   - March 4 – Why is it so hard to listen to the truth?
   - March 11 – What does it take to believe?
   - March 18 – What does God see in us?
   - March 25 – Following Jesus, how hard can it be?

May God bless us with a new beginning.

Pastor René

“Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in spring-time.”

- Martin Luther
Join us in the parking lot 11:30-12:00 on Palm Sunday. You can stay in the safety and comfort of your own vehicle, receive a palm cross, and celebrate Palm Sunday with your church family, whether or not you are ready to come inside for in-person worship. All are welcome (just remember to wear your mask).

Hope to see you then!
**Food Insecurity**

Are you looking for a project? The Missions Committee is hoping to collect at least 50 bags filled with nonperishable items to help some of Trinity’s neighbors who continue to experience food insecurity. Would you like to help? Here is a list of items to put in your bag:

- Large jar of peanut butter
- Large jar of jelly or jam
- 2 Boxes of spaghetti
- Jar of pasta sauce
- Large can of tuna fish or chicken
- Canned soup
- Canned vegetables
- Package of toilet paper or diapers

If you cannot get out to shop and would like to contribute, a full bag with these items is approximately $25. You may donate by sending a check to the church and indicating that it is for Missions for “Food Insecurity.”

Filled bags can be dropped off at the Hale Room entrance after worship on March 28 and April 4. Thank you!

**JFON UPDATE**

*Justice for Our Neighbors* is continuing through the pandemic! With the world in flux and many programs on hold because of Covid-19, the legal clinic for JFON continues on. Though the English as a Second Language program is on hiatus, the legal clinic has not stopped. Every month, on the 2nd and 4th Monday, from 5 – 8 p.m., the lawyers call the clients and meet with them over the phone to discuss Green Card status, the road to citizenship, Dreamer possibilities, DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), and other immigration issues. In 2020, the lawyers saw almost 60 clients and 2021 is starting out strong with full clinics in January and February. If you have questions about JFON, please contact Diane Mackie.

**A Note From SPRC**

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is pleased to announce that the job search has begun for the next Director of Music Ministries. Please forward this link to anyone you believe might be interested in the position: [Director of Music Ministries - Trinity United Methodist Church, Springfield, Massachusetts](mailto:Director of Music Ministries - Trinity United Methodist Church, Springfield, Massachusetts).

Please direct any questions to SPRC chair, Nate Olin, who may be reached at [Staff-Parish@trinityspringfield.org](mailto:Staff-Parish@trinityspringfield.org)

**Would You Like to Serve as Liturgist for Sunday Worship?**

The Worship Committee is interested in providing opportunities for members who are interested in serving as liturgist for a Sunday worship service.

The word “liturgist” in Greek means “work of the people”. Serving as liturgist is an opportunity for members of the congregation to become more involved in worship. The liturgist leads the Call to Worship, reads the scripture(s), and occasionally assists with Communion and other special worship rituals.

As liturgist at Trinity, you receive the Sunday bulletin in advance so you can become familiar with the flow of the service and the scripture reading.

Then on Sunday morning, the liturgist reports to the church before 10:00 to spend some time with the microphone and meet with the pastors at 10:00.

Being a liturgist is a wonderful opportunity to serve God by being part of the worship leadership team! If you are interested, or have questions, please e-mail the Worship Committee at [worship@trinityspringfield.org](mailto:worship@trinityspringfield.org).

Nicole Baker-Cooley and Vera Baker,
Worship Committee Co-Chairs
Black-Owned Businesses

We hope you’ve had a chance to revisit black-owned businesses you’re aware of, and perhaps try one of those highlighted in February through the Friday Black History month emails. For those who do not get the email they are listed below. We’ll continue into March highlighting businesses owned by women! Also, if you have a computer, we encourage you to continue checking out and connecting with more of the black-owned businesses in our area.

The Souper Sweet Sandwich Shop
This week we’d like to introduce Sonja Yelder, Springfield native and owner of The Souper Sweet Sandwich Shop. Just as the name says you can get a variety of generous-sized sandwiches along with amazing desserts. In addition, Ms. Yelder, who trained at Le Cordon Bleu in Paris, offers salads and soups – all homemade using ingredients from local farmer’s markets. Located at 929 Belmont St in Springfield, be sure to check out the entire menu at www.soupersweetsandwichshop.com. If you work downtown treat yourself to Ms. Yelder’s creative sandwiches at Granny’s Baking Table, which she co-owns with Todd Crosset. You’re in for a treat at either location!

Bumpy’s Natural and Organic Foods
This week we’d like to introduce Derryl “Bumpy” Gibbs, Springfield resident and owner of Bumpy’s Natural and Organic Foods. Bumpy’s moved from Agawam to Springfield in 2019 and is located about a mile from Trinity at 908 Allen St. (just past the end of Sumner Ave.). They pride themselves on offering organic, natural, and allergen-free food, health, and beauty products at reasonable prices. You can find out more about Bumpy’s on their web site, https://bumpysbargains.com, or their Facebook page. Better yet, just stop in or call and ask about a delivery (413-209-9471). They offer free delivery for orders of $40 or more and curbside pick-up. They also have some of the nicest and most helpful staff in Springfield!

Khi & Eli’s Food for the Soul
Perhaps you’ve seen the sign for Khi & Eli’s Food for the Soul at 882 Sumner Ave. The owner, Melvin Lockett, long had a dream of opening a restaurant featuring his mother’s cooking. In 2014 it became a reality. His mother, Stephanie Buggs, (both are from Springfield) says she’s been cooking half her life starting after school at her uncle’s grinder shop on State St. Though she began there, everything else she learned from her grandmother and her mother. Named for Mr. Lockett’s two young sons, Khi & Eli’s features everything from ribs to fried chicken, fried catfish and southern staples like mac & cheese, sweet potato pies and corn bread, lots of corn bread. Call (413) 732-0860 to place an order and “Like” their Facebook page where you’ll also find more information.

Garden of Eat’n
This week we want you to meet Zephrin Mongroo, owner of Garden of Eat’n, located at 429 White St. Mongroo notes that when guests arrive for the first time they get more than just a meal, they get an education. The offerings are all vegan meaning they exclude all animal products. While they have many creative entrees, favorites include fritter patties with wild rice, garbanzo beans and a cucumber salad dressing and their veggie, plantain burger. They are open Saturday, 11-4 and weekdays from 8-7 serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. Their Pastry Chef, Kamisha Bryant might tempt you with vegan strawberry cheesecake, blueberry, banana, walnut cake and apple empanadas for dessert. To find more information check out their Facebook page and remember to “Like” them. Call 413-233-7216 to place an order.
Help Make a Difference: The Hygiene Kit Challenge

“In the face of natural disasters, violence, or grinding poverty, hygiene kits can mean the difference between sickness and health for struggling families.”

-- Church World Service website

Through some basic items, like towels and soap, we can make a positive difference for neighbors near and far. We can live into our Trinity mission, serving our community and world. With that in mind, the Christian Education and Formation Committee (with support from the Missions Committee) is inviting you to make a hygiene kit or multiple kits this Lenten season.

Our goal is to collect 100 kits before the end of Lent.

To help us reach our goal

(1) Purchase the following items
   • One hand towel measuring approximately 15” x 28” to 16” x 32” (no fingertip, bath, dish towel or micro-fiber)
   • One washcloth
   • One wide-tooth comb removed from the package
   • One fingernail or toenail clipper removed from the package (either one is acceptable)
   • One bath-size bar of soap in the original package
   • One toothbrush in the original package
   • Ten standard size Band-Aids

(2) Assemble the kit as shown in this video: https://cwskits.org/assemble-kits/hygiene-kits/

(3) Challenge a friend to make a kit as well via social media, an email, or a phone call.

(4) Drop the kit(s) off at Trinity on Palm Sunday (March 28) at noon (or contact Pastor Erin to make other arrangements)
Believing that all persons are created in God's image and are of sacred worth, that Jesus' message was one of inclusion of those rejected by mainstream society, and that each member makes inherent and valuable contributions to the Body of Christ, we of Trinity Church, welcome into this congregation people of every age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic condition, family structure, and physical or mental ability.

| Senior Pastor: | Rev. René Perez (x205)                      |
| Associate Pastor: | Rev. Erin Newcomb-Moore (x210) |
| Director of Music Ministry: | Becky R. Isaacson (x210) |
| Church Administrator: | Jeff Bennett (x202) |
| Administrative Assistant: | Doreen B. Bessey (x204) |
| Head Sexton: | Carlos Manning (x207) |
| TNSK Director: | Maria Cloonen |

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