

The Trinity Window

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 903 FOREST AVENUE, HENRICO, VA 23229
804-288-6056

Pastor's Corner

May 2020



As I write this we are all looking for good news. Our world continues to be disrupted by the Covid-19 Pandemic. People are sick, people are dying, millions are unemployed, some are desperate, front line workers from health care providers to grocery store workers to truckers continue to put themselves on the line. We are indeed looking for good news.

First and foremost, the good news is that Christ is risen! Our God lives, our God reigns and our God will get us through all this. Now, more than ever, we are learning again that this good news is the *only* thing that doesn't change and it is the only sure foundation on which we can stand. Depend on it and be strong!

The further good news is that our living God provides, often in unexpected ways. I want to take a moment to acknowledge and thank some heroes right here at Trinity, our incredible church staff. You don't need me to tell you that our staff is wonderful and talented. But you need to know that they have been serving you in some unexpected ways. This is just an (incomplete) sampling:

- **Hung Su Lim** and **Aaron Miller**, while carrying out their normal duties have also been behind much of the innovative worship including organizing and leading a new Thursday evening Prayer Service starting May 7.
- **Bryce Miller**, while holding our Student Ministries together, has also become the "director" of livestream worship behind the camera and computer.
- **Jen Williams**, in addition to week long Kids Ministries offerings has become our "hospitality czar" on our Sunday morning chat function.
- **Judy Oguich**, now more than ever, is our "information switchboard operator" keeping all informed on what's going on in people's lives.
- **Charles Staples** continues to direct the choir and music ministry but now has become something of a techno-wizard doing amazing things. (With **Pat Ruscus'** faithful support.)
- In addition to all the things that **Bill Pike** does, Bill absolutely embodies (literally) our food donation ministry.
- **Kim Johnson**, our Communication Consultant, not only is maintaining all our social media, but is also monitoring other successful churches around the country so that we can benefit from best practices and try to stay ahead (or at least not behind) the curve.

- And let's not forget the office staff: If you get the online Connection, read the Window or if you've been on a church Zoom meeting, then you can thank **Kim Tingler**. **Paula Cadden** is manning the phones and keeping the office going. Without **Diane Ladd** there would be no payroll nor would the church be able to function. They could all work at home but have chosen to come in (on a staggered schedule) to keep the church running smoothly. And *all of us* appreciate the cleaning and sanitizing job **Ronnie Johnson**, **Bobby McShaw** and **Juanita Woodson** do constantly.

You should know that these faithful servants have stepped up valiantly. Not once have I heard, "That's not my job." Rather each and every one have been willing and eager to do whatever has been necessary to adapt to these conditions. They have had to learn some new skill sets even *while practicing* them. They are faithful servants and quite a team. I want to thank each one publicly. God has provided for us bountifully. Good news indeed!

Easter blessings,

Stewardship Update



Many thanks to our faithful congregation for participating in this year's stewardship campaign. Our final numbers are 335 pledges totaling \$1,296,999. We are grateful for these results in such challenging times! We are especially thankful, and moved, by the families that increased their original pledges following our final letter, which will help us to maintain our ministries and Make Disciples of Jesus Christ. Our budget committee is now in the process of crafting a budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

COVID-19 has suspended in-person events at Trinity for the time being. We are using a variety of methods and platforms to stay connected during these times.

Online Meetings & Events (trinityumc.net/news/events-at-trinity)

NEW-Braving the Wilderness Study:

The incredible author Brene Brown has written an interesting book titled, “Braving the Wilderness, the Quest for true belonging and the Courage to Stand Alone”. We will take 5 weeks to discuss some of the questions that Brene asks in this book. It will begin on **Tuesday, May 5 at 7 PM**. The meeting will be under an hour and will feature introspection, small group discussion and weekly challenges.



NEW-Thursday Evening Prayer:

Beginning **May 7 at 7:00 PM**, Trinity will begin a Thursday Evening Prayer service via our livestream. This contemplative service will include music, prayers, readings, and a brief reflection intended to draw us closer together as a church and help us find peace and solidarity in this season of social distancing.

Kids Ministry:

We will be hosting two weekly Zoom gatherings on **Tuesday and Thursday at 4:00 PM**.

We also are looking for kids who are interested in sending cards, drawings or notes to Trinity's shut-ins, contact Jen for more information.

Students Ministry:

Middle School Zoom meeting **Tuesday afternoon at 4 PM** <https://zoom.us/j/180210533>, ZOOM Meeting ID: 180-210-533

High School Zoom meeting **Wednesday evenings at 8 PM** <https://zoom.us/j/606127490>, ZOOM Meeting ID: 606-127-490

College Zoom meeting **Thursday nights at 8 PM** <https://zoom.us/j/324266277>, ZOOM Meeting ID: 324-266-277

Parent Zoom meeting **Monday nights at 7:30 PM** <https://zoom.us/j/121358591>, ZOOM Meeting ID: 121-358-591

Dialogue & Devotion:

Aaron will be leading a dialogue called “Sacred Rhythms” via ZOOM on **Wednesday evenings at 7 PM**.

<https://zoom.us/j/134292540>, ZOOM Meeting ID: 134-292-540

Music:

Choir has online rehearsal Wednesdays **at 7:03 PM via ZOOM**. <https://zoom.us/j/137482565>, ZOOM Meeting ID: 137-482-565

Charles Staples provides online music offerings via Youtube Live. Visit our online events page or our Facebook page, as the times and dates for these offerings fluctuates.

Pastor Larry:

Bible Study **on Tuesday at 7 AM via ZOOM** <https://zoom.us/j/727017964>, ZOOM Meeting ID: 727-017-964

Bible Study on **Wednesday at 1:40 PM via ZOOM** <https://zoom.us/j/854830801>, ZOOM Meeting ID: 854-830-801

Find Pastor Larry's Bible Study online: trinityumc.net/digital-bible-study-reflection

Pastor Hung Su:

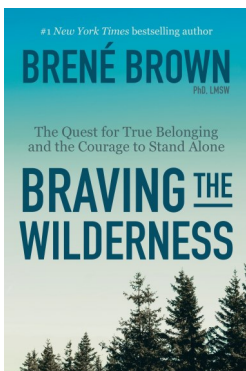
Prayer meetings daily **at 6:30 AM and 12:30 PM via ZOOM** <https://zoom.us/j/6243348408>, ZOOM Meeting ID: 624-334-8408

Friday Bible Reading at **11:00 AM via ZOOM on Fridays**. <https://zoom.us/j/6243348408>, ZOOM Meeting ID: 624-334-8408

Additional Small Groups are also meeting via ZOOM.

Trinity Church Chatter Facebook Group:

Find the group on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/trinityrichmond>



A Conversation about Belonging

What does it mean to be a part of something? Have you ever longed to just fit in or to feel like you have found your place? These are questions that I struggled with throughout my life, and even have difficulty with them now. If you have had questions around where you belong or who you belong to, join me on this journey of discovering what true

belonging might be. "A timely and important new book that challenges everything we think we know about cultivating true belonging in our communities, organizations, and culture."

The incredible author Brene Brown has written an interesting book titled, "Braving the Wilderness, the Quest for true belonging and the Courage to Stand Alone". We will take 5 weeks to discuss some of the questions that Brene asks in this book. It will begin on **Tuesday, May 5** at 7 PM. The meeting will be under an hour and will feature introspection, small group discussion and weekly challenges. If this is something that excites you or your family, it will be open to all ages, and I encourage you to do this with someone who you can hold each other accountable!

You do not need to purchase the book if you are interested in participating (but it is a great read!). If you have any questions or are interested in signing up, please feel free to call, text or email me! I look forward to this journey together.



Earth Day – every day, not just one

Even though Earth Day has come and gone, Creation Care prays that Earth Day becomes a part of everyone's daily fabric and not just one day a year. As we reflect on God's creation, we want to share an excerpt from

the Pope's *Encyclical Letter Laudato Si' of the Holy Father Francis on Care for our Common Home*. The passage is as follows:

“At the same time, (Patriarch) Bartholomew has drawn attention to the ethical and spiritual roots of environmental problems, which require that we look for solutions not only in technology but in a change of humanity; otherwise we would be dealing merely with symptoms. He asks us to replace consumption with sacrifice, greed with generosity, wastefulness with a spirit of sharing, an asceticism which ‘entails learning to give, and not simply to give up. It is a way of loving, of moving gradually away from what I want to what God’s world needs’.”

We pray the congregation reflects on these words, and from that reflection, action comes.



Thursday Evening Prayer

Beginning **May 7** at 7:00 PM, Trinity will begin a Thursday Evening Prayer service via our livestream.

This contemplative service will include music, prayers, readings, and a brief reflection intended to draw us closer together as a church and help us find peace and solidarity in this season of social distancing.

Our first series of reflections, simply titled “Letters,” will explore the Apostle Paul’s writings and other letters from the New Testament. We will focus on the spiritual practices and day to day life of a Christian disciple (or follower of Jesus), as well as the new life available to us in Christ.

We hope this prayer service will help us to center ourselves as a church midweek and nourish us on our spiritual journey together. Please join us for this fresh expression of worship.



Samaritan Fund

Even as we continue our concerns in regard to the Coronavirus, there is an ongoing need to remember our senior citizens in Virginia United Methodist Homes. Each year between Mother’s Day and Father’s Day we collect a special offering for the Samaritan Fund Drive for those who have been blessed by longevity but have outlived their financial resources. You may contribute to this worthy cause by sending a check to Trinity, noting Samaritan Fund on the memo line or by sending the check to Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc., 7113 Three Chopt Road, Suite 300, Richmond, VA 23226-3643.

Lenten Devotional Book

Many thanks to everyone who wrote a devotional for this year’s Lenten devotional booklet. Personally, I am always amazed at the heartfelt quality of a piece submitted by a reluctant writer. We never know how are words might resonate with another person. So, to all you hesitant writers, we appreciate your participation and your thoughtful words.

Also, we want to thank, Trinity members Betsy Estes, and Derek Taylor for their editing skills. Thanks also goes to Judy Oguich, Kim Tingler, and Kim Johnson for working with the layout, design, and the coordination of print copies and the daily post on line.

Finally, this whole devotional booklet depends upon keen eyes. And, there are no keener eyes than Dianne Moore, an ace of a photographer. Dianne culls through hundreds of photographs to narrow down the best ones for the booklet. That is tough work. Yet, with steel nerves, she leads us through making the final selections.

With a bit of luck, we look forward to putting another devotional booklet together for Lent in 2021. It is actually pretty easy to do, we just need some more reluctant writers.

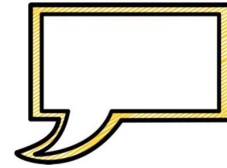


What's Happening in Trinity KIDS Ministry?

While we can't meet in person due to COVID-19, the Trinity KIDS Ministry is providing opportunities for kids to stay connected and continue to grow in their faith. Here are the ways we are connecting and growing:

1. **Sunday Worship Service:** We are including a short video in our worship service that introduces the bible story that kids will be learning each week. Also, starting in May, kids can print out a worship bulletin to complete at home while their family gathers to worship together (there are two versions – one for older kids and one for younger kids). We will also be providing a sermon notes sheet for kids to fill out during the worship service. These can be accessed through our Trinity Kids weekly email or in our Trinity Kids private Facebook group.
2. **Weekly Trinity Kids Email:** Every Tuesday, our Trinity Kids email is sent. Included in this email are the weekly links to the kids bulletins for worship, links to the weekly Zoom calls, and activities for both preschoolers and elementary schoolers that tie in and teach each week's Kids Church lesson. There is also a monthly activity that families can complete together.
3. **Trinity Kids Facebook Group:** Each week, the Kids Church activities for preschool and elementary schoolers are posted throughout the week. Parenting articles, family activities, and fun challenges are also posted during the week as well as links to the Zoom gatherings and reminders to join in on the fun!
4. **Weekly Zoom Gatherings:** Our Zoom gatherings give kids an opportunity to connect with each other and grow in their faith! We currently have three gatherings happening each week: two for preschool through 3rd grade (Tues. and Thurs. at 4pm) and one for 4th -5th grade (Wed. at 7pm). During our gatherings, we spend time sharing, playing games, and growing in our faith together by using our Kids Church lessons. To access the link for the Zoom gatherings, contact Jen at jwilliams@trinityumc.net. We also send the links in our weekly email and post them in our Trinity Kids Facebook group.

Consider joining us in these activities as we continue to grow and learn together!!



"My Kindergarten son enjoys the weekly Zoom calls to engage with his friends and participate in the fun activities. I am able to use the time he is with Miss Jen to call our family members across the country." - Sam Connelly

The zoom meetings have been great for Colt to engage with Jen and his peers while we are not meeting in person at church. He's really enjoying the meetings and learning a lot from the lessons. He even reminds me about when the meetings are now! In his words, "I like my zoom meetings with Ms. Jen because I get to see all different friends! I tried it and I liked it! It's cool!" - Kyle Utley

"My son has participated in many of the twice weekly Zoom calls and he really looks forward to them! It is a good change of pace from the rest of his day and gives him an opportunity to see his friends from church that he misses so much!" - Katie Zimmerman

"We had the best time on Easter morning with the family "Easter Jam" activity. The games were hilarious and fun to do together and it was the perfect thing to do to start our day. I've been so thankful for the many resources provided by Trinity- the zoom calls, Easter Jam, and weekly email lessons have really helped us feel connected to Trinity during this stressful time." - Jenny Larkum

"Jen's twice weekly zoom calls have been so enjoyable for my daughters. They look forward to them and it allows me to get dinner going and clean up from the day. Jen does a wonderful job of keeping them engaged for a full hour! Thank you Jen for your commitment to keeping them connected with the church:)" - Mandy LeReche

"Eliza absolutely adores the twice weekly Zooms. She loves to see her friends, get to share, and she's completely independent - It's my workout time! Most importantly, she's definitely growing in her faith. She had a far deeper knowledge of Holy Week than I could have imagined. Jen is amazing!" - Ashley Marshall

"I love seeing Keyes pray in front of the computer while on the weekly Zoom call with her friends. It means so much that even though we are apart, we are still a tremendously close church family." - Alexis Lyons

In Our Own Backyards: Donating Food

No question that COVID-19 has intruded and disrupted. But, those intrusions and disruptions also created opportunities. And, when it comes to food, we have an opportunity to help people in our own backyards.

Since the March shutdown, Trinity members have been responding by donating food and personal hygiene items to people in need in the city of Richmond and Henrico County. Your donations have helped families served by the Sherbourne UMC Food Pantry, the Oak Grove-Bellemeade Elementary School neighborhoods, Henrico County Public Schools, and the Welborne UMC Food Pantry.

On Friday, April 17, we received 108 bags of groceries and personal hygiene items. From that total, 37 bags were taken by Bob Argabright to families whose sons and daughters participate in the Saturday morning Literacy Academy at Oak Grove-Bellemeade.

Monday, April 20, 71 bags of groceries were taken to Welborne. You should have seen the faces of the Welborne food pantry volunteers when we pulled up to unload...they were thankful and overwhelmed at your generosity.

That same Monday evening, Welborne volunteers distributed food to 91 families, roughly 300 people.

On Friday, April 24, we received 52 bags of groceries that were taken to Welborne.

As long as there is a need for food and personal hygiene items during this crisis, we will continue to collect. The organizations that we collect for might change from week to week, but the goal is the same to help our neighbors in our own backyards.

Recently, Trinity member, Anne Pollard, shared with us her secret for setting aside food for people in need. Each week, she sets aside one food item every day. At the end of the week, she has 7 items ready to donate. Do the math, if each Trinity member followed Anne's self-discipline, just imagine the difference we would make. In her career, Ann has seen firsthand the needs in the city and county school systems. And, she asks a very introspective question of herself, "when in my life have I ever gone hungry?"

We will post in the Wednesday Connection the organization and the food and hygiene items needed for each week. The collection boxes will be in front of the Welcome Center from 9 -2 every Friday.

If you have questions, please e-mail Bill Pike: bpike@trinityumc.net.

Finally, we remind you do not put yourself at risk in rounding up your donation. It is also possible to make a financial donation to Feed More or our Pastor Discretionary Fund.

And one more finally from Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

We can.

Update from the Finance Committee

The COVID-19 virus has impacted all of our lives in many ways. First and foremost, we hope that all members of our Trinity family are healthy, safe, and continuing to find spiritual enrichment through our great church. Our committee met recently to discuss the potential impact of the temporary church shutdown on Trinity's finances. Here are a few things that we would like to communicate to the congregation:

- **Tithes and Offerings** – Please continue to support our church with your tithes and offerings, as you are able, during our temporary shutdown. Our expenses continue, even though we will not have a chance to pass the offering plates. We encourage everyone to continue giving in your typical pattern/frequency via online methods, or by mailing checks to the church office at 903 Forest Avenue, Henrico, VA 23229.
- **Online Giving** – if you do not give online already, this is a good opportunity to switch! Trinity has several ways to give online currently, including ACH, e-check, and credit card. We are also investigating new ways to automate giving as well, including Zelle and PayPal. These are all easy, safe, and consistent ways to provide your gifts to Trinity. Please visit <https://www.trinityumc.net/give/> for more information.
- **Apportionments** – our committee voted to temporarily suspend monthly apportionment payments to the Conference, until we determine if Trinity will be financially impacted during this time. While we intend to pay our apportionments in full by their due date (December 31, 2020), we want to be sure that funding is available to meet our essential expenses, most notably our priority to fund payroll for our clergy and staff.
- **Capital Projects** – Trinity remains committed to investing in long-term capital projects to grow our church and fulfill our mission. Our trustees are moving forward with several exciting projects, which are largely funded outside of our operating budget. Major capital projects will continue to be subject to church council approval, and will be evaluated in the context of our overall financial health.

Stay Home • Wash Your Hands Practice Social Distancing

STAY INFORMED ABOUT COVID-19 & SERVICES & OPERATIONS IN HENRICO COUNTY

TELEPHONE HOTLINES

Information about
Henrico County operations

501-5655

Text : 376-9780

Outreach line
for older residents

501-5454

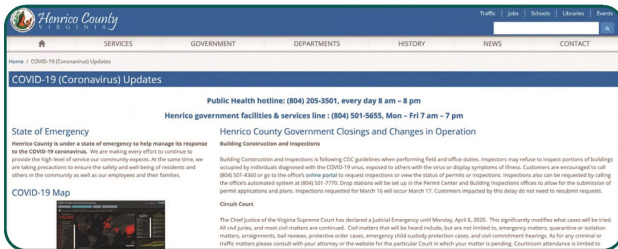
Health/medical
questions

205-3501

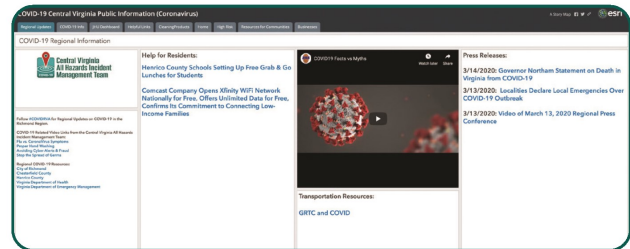
LOCAL NEWS MEDIA RESOURCES

Richmond Times-Dispatch • Henrico Citizen • VPM • NBC12 • WTVR • WRIC • Radio Poder 1380

ONLINE RESOURCES



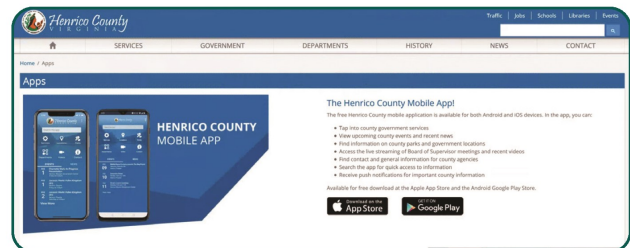
henrico.us/coronavirus



COVID-19 dashboard at henrico.us



henrico.us/news



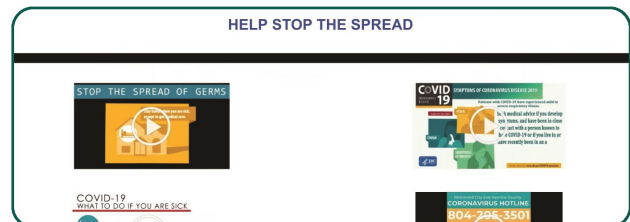
henrico.us/apps

SOCIAL MEDIA



#oneHenrico #COVIDRVA
#unHenrico #HenricoReady

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER



Sign up at henrico.us/news



HENRICO COUNTY TELEVISION

Comcast channel 17 • Verizon channel 39 • Henrico County Government channel on Youtube

Joys and Concerns

Births

Mason Alexander Butterworth born on April 16 to Conner and Kristin Butterworth. His grandparents are Carol and Chris Butterworth.

Mackenzie Claire Wroten born on April 15 to Mary Margaret and Andrew Wroten. Her grandparents are Peggy and Bruce Watson.

Our sympathies to...

Hope Reisenwitz whose husband Dave Reisenwitz died April 16

Roger Hart, Sr. whose sister Martha Kersey died April 15

Mary Beth Utley whose mother Ruth Scanlon died April 6

The family of Evelyn Helwig who died October 2, 2019

The family of Art Helwig who died December 9, 2017

Gifts Given to Trinity

Gifts received for the **Trinity Foundation Memorial Fund**

In memory of:

Charles Beverage

Lee Childress

Edith Darden

Dick Forrester

George Habel

George and Rachel Habel

Martha Kersey

Millie Taylor

Gifts received for the **Trinity Foundation McClure**

Scholarship Fund

In memory of:

Bonnie Cale

Barbara P Carter

Rev. John Coffey

Dick Forrester

George Habel

Elizabeth Ramsey



Old Cell Phones Needed

Please donate your old cell phones (with chargers, without service contracts, and with personal information removed) to be given to survivors of abuse to call 911. Bring them to Missions Central, the room down the hall from the church office toward the sanctuary, and leave them in the designated receptacle there. This is a great way to recycle and could save someone's life. (Anne Burch, 270-1661)

Thank You Notes

Dear Trinity friends,

Please know how much I appreciate all of the prayers, calls, and cards that I received after my accident in February. The thoughtfulness of the Trinity Stitchers in making me a prayer square was very uplifting. I also appreciate the meals that I received which were very helpful to Pam and I during my recovery. It is truly a blessing to be a part of such a wonderful and caring church family. I know all of your prayers have helped with my healing and most of all I know that God has been with me.

Sincerely,

Tom Rockhold

The expressions of sympathy through your cards and notes from our Trinity family have touched me deeply after the passing of Charlie. I will always be grateful. I will also be grateful for your thoughtfulness and appreciate your continued prayers for me and my family.

God Bless,

Millie Beverage

Our Stewardship

"We will be loyal to the United Methodist Church and uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness."

Our Presence:

Day	4/5	4/12	4/19	4/26
Worship Service	844	1438	678	668
Sunday School				

Gifts as of March 31:

Projected income to date: \$ 1,235,176
 Actual income year to date: \$ 1,213,478
 Excess (-shortfall) \$ (21,698)

NewsLetter
DEADLine

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the next Window is **Monday, May 15 at 4 PM for events taking place in June.** Articles may be submitted prior to the deadline, and we encourage early submissions. Articles must be submitted in writing with the contact person's name to Kim Tingler, ktingler@trinityumc.net.



**We miss you!
But thanks for tuning in!**