

The Trinity Window

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 903 FOREST AVENUE, HENRICO, VA 23229
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January 2021



Pastor's Corner

"See, I am making all things new." Revelation 21:5

I understand that a new year is just a marking of time. It is arbitrary. It is a bit artificial. January 1 is simply twenty-four hours after December 31. Nevertheless, I suspect that if you are thinking like me, you, me, and the rest of the world are eager to put 2020 behind us. What a year! The pandemic has disrupted all of our lives. The political year displayed just how divided we are. There are many beloved who are still with us, but upon another shore. I also know that the pain and disruption is still with us, and will remain with us for a while. Yet, even so, this is a new year and a year, so full of promise and hope. I'm excited! But before 2020 is a memory we put behind us, a couple of observations:

God is faithful. This is not news, we have always known it. But how powerfully it has been demonstrated, and continues to be demonstrated. Reality has surrounded and embodied words we have long used, God is our strength and shield. A very present help in times of trouble. Can anyone doubt it? Let's give thanks to the God who continues to hold us up.

Trinity is faithful. I want to call this to your mind and in the same breath say, "Thank you." Back in March when the pandemic swept among us and our world was turned upside down, I reminded you that the Great Commandment is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. A second commandment is like it, love your neighbor as yourself. It is my prayer that years from now when some future church historian is writing our book, he/she will say every decision made put love for and safety of the community and the church family before all other considerations. Over the past nine months we have made some hard, agonizing decisions, but I believe that they reflect who we are and what we value. In the midst of all this, our congregation has been profoundly faithful in supporting the church and even more in supporting our outreach into the community. You should feel justifiably proud.

Our commission is ever before us. 2021 promises to offer a return to a new normal. We are looking forward to coming back! But, I firmly believe the experiences of this year are causing many people to re-evaluate their lives. **THEY NEED THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST!** Our commission, our message, our work is more important now than ever. We may be looking forward to taking a sigh of relief, but we cannot rest from our labors. God is sending us into the world. It is a new year. It is a new world. But, it is the eternal hope that we bear and proclaim. Welcome 2021!

May God bless us, every one.



Merry Christmas
And
Happy New Year
From the staff at Trinity!



Kids Christmas Pageant

Our Kid's Christmas Pageant is going to look different this year, but we are so excited to put it all together.

The Kid's Christmas Pageant will be released as one of our Christmas Eve services. Watch it together with others on **December 24 at 4:00 PM**. An hour after it airs it will then be available to watch at any time.

Update for Christmas Eve Worship

Friends, it is with great sadness that we have to **cancel** the 6:00 PM in-person outdoor worship experience. Having explored a variety of alternatives to no avail, and given the current state of the pandemic in the Richmond area, we have cancelled this in-person Christmas Eve experience.

We will have two online worship services on Christmas Eve. Our family worship service will be online at 4:00 PM and will include the Kids' Christmas Pageant.

Our online Christmas Eve worship service will be at 8:00 PM. It will contain carols, the Christmas story, and will proclaim the Good News.

Loving our neighbors is our first job, and we feel that to do so well, we must move forward with only virtual Christmas Eve services this year.

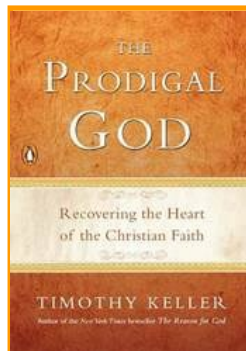
The 4:00 and 8:00 services will be available one hour after they air live on our Vimeo channel and on our Christmas page. We hope to worship together online at 4 & 8 PM, but understand that travel or other obligations may require you to worship online at an alternate time.

Find the Christmas Eve worship services at Trinityumc.net/watchlive or on our Vimeo and YouTube channels.



McClure Bible Study Class

The McClure Bible Study class (**each Sunday** at 9:30 AM) will be studying the second book of Kings in January and February, 2021. Please contact Lou Cei (ceilb2@aol.com) for the link. What New Testament connections are found in this book of the Bible, recounting the downfall of the once powerful nation of Israel?



3M Study Group

The Wednesday night 3M study group will be studying "The Prodigal God" by Timothy Keller for six weeks beginning **Wednesday, January 6**. Our class meets 6 – 7:30 PM via Zoom. Interested persons can contact Judy Oguich for the Zoom link.

From the back cover: "In six captivating sessions, pastor and New York Times bestselling author Timothy Keller opens your eyes to the powerful message of Jesus' best known – and least understood – parable: The Parable of the Prodigal Son. Dr Keller helps you glean insights from each of the characters in Jesus' parable: the irreligious younger son, the moralistic elder son, and the father who lavishes love on both. Discover the amazing depths of God's extravagant love." We hope you will join us!



Hermitage Richmond is proud to present **ILLUMINATION ON THE LAWN**

Feel free to come and enjoy the lights
December 4 through January 6
Masks and Social Distancing Required

HERMITAGE | RICHMOND
 1600 Westwood Avenue, Richmond, VA 23227
www.hermitagerichmond.org



What's Happening in Trinity KIDS Ministry?

There are three components to our weekly kids ministry Experience.

1. **Kids Church Online Video:** To give families more flexibility, we are releasing a 20-30 minute Kids Church video each week! Each video is available to watch on Sunday morning at 8am (but will also be available for families to watch anytime during the week). The video includes worship songs, games, bible story, Big Idea, Grow TV video with Carll and Kassie, and other components, similar to what we do at Kids Church when we are together in person.

2. **Parent Guide:** Each week there is a guide for parents to use after their kids watch the weekly video. The guide has three activities for families to do together: discussion, activity/craft (any materials needed would be ones you likely have at home), and memory verse activity.

3. **Kids Ministry Zoom Call:** There is a Zoom call on Sunday mornings at 9:30am. This gives kids the opportunity to stay connected to their church family during this time of social distancing. Parents receive an email each Sunday morning at 8am with all of the links to access the Kids Church Online video, Parent Guide, and Zoom Call.



Student Ministry Small Groups

The Student Ministry has launched small groups that are meeting every other week. During this time together, we play social distant games, laugh together, talk about life, and share in the spiritual discipline of studying scripture together. If you have a student in middle or high school, or know of someone who would like to join us, please check out our meeting times below and sign up in our weekly email or the student page on the website. It has been so great seeing all of your faces again, and I can't wait to see where this adventure takes us.

All meetings are every other week:

Monday from 6-7 PM; 8th grade students
Wednesday from 5-6 PM; 6th grade students
Thursday from 6-7 PM; 7th and 10th grade students
Sunday from 6-7 PM; 9th, 11th, and 12th grade students

The schedule for small groups is fluid based on who is signed up and monthly communication, so if you would like to be involved, email or call me.

Bryce



Winter Weather Decisions

Even though our building is basically closed because of the pandemic, we still must make decisions related to opening and closing based upon winter weather conditions.

The Trinity Preschool will follow closing announcements from Henrico County Public Schools. Even in this virtual environment, school systems will be making winter weather closing decisions.

For Trinity staff, community groups, and vendors who supply services to Trinity, we will basically follow Henrico County Public Schools closing announcements. However, there is a slight difference. If everything comes together properly for snow removal, Trinity might be able to reopen quicker. This all depends upon our ability to clear our sidewalks and parking lots. If we can clear these areas and safely get people into the building, then we might be able to reopen a bit earlier than a large school system.

Winter weather could also impact the broadcast of Sunday worship services. This would be true if it is too dangerous to bring in Trinity staff or if we had a power outage.

As in the past, we will communicate closing and schedule adjustments via our website, social media, phone message in the church office, and local news media outlets. If you have additional questions, please e-mail Bill Pike: bpike@trinityumc.net.

Heart Work for January

A special thanks to everyone who has donated to our Friday collection drives. Your hearts have done effective work in responding to our community needs. I can't tell you how moved the leaders and volunteers are when we drop off the collected items at their sites. In many cases they are just about speechless, and yes, tears of thanks do well up in their eyes.

Your response in November and December was extraordinary, but we can't back off now. Just because the holidays are gone, doesn't mean that the needs of the people in our communities will stop. We will continue to make weekly requests of food and other items to you. Updates will be provided each week that will include a specific list of needs for the nonprofits we are assisting.

In closing, we want to thank Karen Adams for her behind the scenes coordination with the Sherbourne Food Pantry. Also, a special thanks to Tom Rockhold who has been my pinch hitter on some Fridays. And I want to thank the Trinity staff for their support, especially Ronnie Johnson, Kim Tingler, and Kim Johnson.

Many thanks on behalf of the individuals and families you have helped. If you have questions, please contact Bill Pike: bpike@trinityumc.net.



Updates from the Trustees

Hopefully, by the time you have this edition of the Window the repurposing of the Mastin room into a meeting space for our youth will be completed. This project also included a facelift of the hallway outside the Mastin room, and a complete remodeling of both restrooms on that hall.

Coordination of this project has gone well with Huff-Morris Architects and Century Construction. We also appreciate the input from the Trinity staff, our youth parents, our youth, and the financial support of the Trinity Foundation, an anonymous Trinity donor, the Finance Committee, the Church Council, and the Trustees.

The pursuit of this project came from recommendations from our Facility Task Force and the Unstuck consultation. This a project that needed to be done, and we think everyone will be pleased with the results.

Also, during these last few months, the Trustees with leadership from Nell Smith, Catherine McSorley, and John Cardwell have completed the installation of new interior signage. This was another recommendation that came from the Unstuck consultation. New signs are installed in every section of the building. This includes way finding maps in entrance areas and new mounted lettering that clearly marks the Welcome Center, the Sanctuary, and Trinity Hall.

The Trustees are appreciative of your support in working through these projects.

The Hermitage

Hermitage residents received 24 stockings from UMW this week. The stockings were made by the Trinity Stitchers, particularly Babara Fitz. They were stuffed with Chexmix, tissues, tooth brushes and tooth paste, candy, crackers, an Advent book, a small cake, socks and a Christmas elf. They were well received and the Volunteer Coordinator hopes to get other churches and individuals in this worthy project.

Nancy Miller



Christmas Flower Tributes in 2020

Because we are currently not able to gather in person for Worship, we are providing the list of Christmas flower tributes in the January newsletter, The Window.

<i>In Loving Memory of:</i>	<i>Given by:</i>
Ada and Ralph Bivins	Linda Latimer and Nancy McGowan
Al and Carol Sue Oguich	Eric, Judy, Garrett, and Abby Oguich
Alf and Jean Goodykoontz	Chuck and Cathy Goodykoontz and Family
Baby Bennett Cecil	Alicia and Andrew Cecil
Charles M. and Marjorie H. Browder	Suzanne and Meade Browder
Circle 5's Maria Butler - a creative, caring, fun friend and neighbor	Charlotte Forrester and Mary Hetzel
Dan Garson	Muriel Garson
Dave and Bobbie Shobe	Their Family
Davis Bottom	Wife, Hildie, and Family
Dee Dee (Evelyn Carlton) & PaPa (William Carlton)	Loving Family (Nancy, Bryan, Rannie Lou & Jim)
Diana Boring	Hubby
Dick Forrester	Mary and Bob Hetzel
Donna Neary	Mary, J. D., Jack and Gretchen Neary
Elizabeth Mallory	Dorothy and Diane
Frances and Mack Dewitt	Margaret and Steve Dewitt
Frank and Mildred Clegg	Eric, Judy, Garrett, and Abby Oguich
Geoffrey Shudtz	Karen Shudtz
George and Rachel Habel	Mary W. Deal
Herman and Charlene Moore	Dorothy and Diane
Jean and Richard Page	Karen Page Shudtz
Jesse Yowell, a wonderful husband and father	Mary Hetzel
Julian Dodson Adkins	His Family
Lauren Banks	Susan and Ralph Freeman
Lee Childress	Mary W. Deal
Leslie Trevvett	Mom and Penn, Jr.
Marian and Lester Jones	Sara and Waddy and Kimberly Street
Marshall E. McCabe, MD	Alice McCabe
Martha P. Rice	Steve and Beverly Parsley
Marvin Goodfriend, our close friend, and Bob's dear colleague	Mary and Bob Hetzel
Mildred Hastings	Mary W. Deal
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Rollison; Mr. and Mrs. Emmette Ward; Rowena Manning; Bill Ward; Dale Ward	John and Pat Rollison
My Parents, Rev. and Mrs. Benjamin T. Price	Patricia Price Ruscus

Nancy Kindervater, and in honor of her friendship with Dee Clements	Circle 1 Friends
Norman and Lola Hilliard	Dorothy and Diane
Our Parents	Mike and Susie Hildebrand
Our Parents, Roger & Mary Virginia Crew; George & Shirley Whitley	Tom and Kathy Crew
Our Parents, my brother Charlie, and niece Lydia	Mary and Bob Hetzel
Our Son, J. P.	Steve and Beverly Parsley
Peggy and Jack Harter	Connie Harter Burton
Randy Clegg	Judy Oguich
Shep Hanner	Jean Hanner
Vernon and Genevieve Collier	Mary W. Deal

<i>In Honor of:</i>	<i>Given by:</i>
Amy, Jamie, Caitlin, Jackson and Alex Bitz	Sara and Waddy Street
Bill & Betsy Pike	Carol Wampler
Bill Pike	Jamie and Bill Eubank
Celia and John Todd	Alicia and Andrew Cecil
Charlotte Forrester, an amazing friend	Mary and Bob Hetzel
Dee Clements, and in honor of her friendship with Nancy Kindervater	Circle 1 Friends
Ella Cecil	Alicia and Andrew Cecil
Gibbie and Sandy Berry	Lily and Nell Stalilonis
Jamie and Bill Eubank	Meems
Jean B. Lum	Peggy and Bruce Watson
Joan and Lora Yowell, my dear friends	Mary Hetzel
Lynn Berry	Trinity Office Staff
Mackenzie Claire Wroten	Peggy and Bruce Watson
Marsha Goodfriend	Tom and Kathy Crew
Marsha Shuler, a longtime dear friend	Mary and Bob Hetzel
Mona and David Cecil	Alicia and Andrew Cecil
My Trinity Church Family	Nancy L. Foley
Our Amazing Church Staff	Peggy and Bruce Watson
Pastor Larry and all my wonderful Wednesday Bible Study friends	Lynn Berry
Peggy and Ken Hart	Jean Hanner
Stella Fritter	Carol Wampler & John Crute
Sue Watkins	Carol Wampler & Wendy Floyd
The Quilting Group	Connie Harter Burton
The Rev. Judy Oguich	3M Study Group
Trinity Friends	Chick & Bonnie Hadden
Trinity Friends, our Children, and Grandchildren	Mary and Bob Hetzel

Pictures from years past during Advent



Thank You Notes

Trinity,

Love comes in many types of packages. But it is most appreciated when we are in need. Life seemed complicated enough when John was recovering from cancer surgery and chemotherapy and trying to get his strength back. My fall and patella fracture seemed insurmountable. But there you were, Trinity, with love in the form of prayers, calls, texts, food and cards. We were overwhelmed with your kindness and support. And, with each gesture, we became more and more convinced that you are not only our Trinity friends, you are out Trinity family! You are truly expressions of God's love. Thank you so much.

Love,

John and Pat Rollison

Dear Trinity UMC,

Welborne UMC Food Pantry thanks you so much for contributing Walmart gift cards for our food pantry guests. We are all a part of one big neighborhood. Many people in this area need help and especially with COVID and job loss. Let's all continue to work together and take care of each other.

Thank you,

Doris Bland, Pantry Volunteer

Thank you from the Staff

The Trinity Staff appreciates the cards, snacks, goodies and other gifts shared with us over the holidays, and throughout these months of quarantine and isolation. We are blessed to be working together with such a loving and caring congregation!

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	11/29	12/6	12/13	12/20
Worship Service	314	792	1234	667
Sunday School				

Gifts as of November 30:

Projected income to date:	\$
Actual income year to date:	\$
Excess (-shortfall)	\$

Joys and Concerns

Baptisms

Evie Cottrell, Billy Cottrell

New Members


Kaitlin Floyd, Holly Cantua, Hector Cantua

Our sympathies to...

*The family of Maria Butler who died November 28
Roger Hart whose sister Pam Hart died November 28
The family of Suzanne Otto who died October 18*

Information from Finance

- We are pleased to receive gifts of appreciated stock. If you would like information on how to handle these gifts, please contact Diane Ladd at dladd@trinityumc.net. It is important to remember to communicate to Diane the name of the stock sold and the number of shares. This is the only way the church can match the donor with the funds received. If you have recently given a gift of stock and have not received an acknowledgment from the church, please contact Diane.
- IRS Code 10170A-1(b) states that only funds received by December 31, 2020 **or** postmarked by December 31, 2020 may be counted as 2020 contributions. The date of receipt or the postmark is the key to determining the year of receipt. Thus, if someone hand carries a check to the church on January 4, 2021 that is dated December 31, 2020 it is a **2021** gift according to IRS regulations. But, if a check arrives by mail at the church on January 4, 2021 and it is postmarked December 31, 2020 and the check is dated December 31, 2020 or before, it is a **2020** gift.
- Please try to get your contributions for the calendar year into the church office by December 31, 2020. If you have any questions, call Diane Ladd at 288-6057 ext. 203.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the next Window is **Monday, January 18 at 4 PM for events taking place in February**. Articles may be submitted prior to the deadline, and we encourage early submissions. Articles must be submitted in writing to Kim Tingler, ktingler@trinityumc.net.