



The Trinity Tower

June Trinity Tower is sponsored in memory
of Ada & Richard Warren

2020

Volume 42 Number 6

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**CURRENTLY
ALL WORSHIP
SERVICES ARE
ON-LINE, WITH
CHURCH EVENTS
AND OUTSIDE
GROUPS
CANCELLED
THROUGH THE
MONTH OF JUNE.**

“(We will) Be The Church”

By: Rev. Scott Siciliano

We have struggled we have feared.

We doubted God is near.

*We have run from Love’s embrace,
made a mockery of God’s grace.*

We have wounded, we have shamed and refused to take the blame.

But there’s no silence anymore. We will seek forgiveness, reconcile, restore.

(Chorus)

And we will be the church alive again in Christ.

*We will spread Good News, invite all those inside who’ve been
broken down, made lesser than, so God can make all whole again.*

We will be alive for everyone to see,

We will be the church our God calls us to be.

I have been singing this song by a dear friend of Kara’s and mine for a few weeks now. Pastor Scott sings about an inclusive world, a message the church needs to echo in the midst of a pandemic. As Kara and I continue to make our rounds in our ‘drive by ministry’, I have been hearing many concerns about how and when we will be opening the church doors to gather for worship. I will admit similar concerns have kept me up at night. I want to reopen, to return to normal, but as our world continues to be ravaged by an invisible virus, normal is redefined, daily.

My friends, the truth is Trinity will never be the same again. We might not be able to worship as a collective body of Christ for some time but when we come back together, fellowship around the table, intimate Bible studies and even singing hymns together during worship will be on hold for the immediate future. But as Scott’s song suggests, *we can be the church alive again in Christ!* We will celebrate online worship, conduct the business of Trinity through Zoom conversations and continue to support the many community organizations that help people thrive.

The church has NOT been closed! Trinity remains strong, vital, and open to the Spirit! Connections with each other will continue through phone calls, cards, emails, and yes, drive by beeps and waves. I would like to personally thank you for your continued generous support of Trinity. We would not be as secure without everyone’s spiritual and monetary contributions. When in the front yard of the parsonage last week, I was approached by someone on the street who asked me if I was the pastor of “this church,” as she pointed to our church building. After I claimed to be, she told me that she had just moved into an apartment beside the Housing Authority and that she had been worshiping with us online. She is a lifelong member of the UCC and hopefully will be a new face within our church family. Even though we may not be physically worshiping together, we continue to be a church within the community.

As members of Consistory meet weekly to decide how we will safely and responsibly re-open our building, remember that we continue to be the church God calls us to be and for that, I am truly thankful! How are you spreading this Good News?

Blessings!
Pastor Fred



CHRIS' AMAZING SUMMER ADVENTURES 2020 Children and Youth Story/Activities

Available by clicking on the Faith Formation link on Trinity's webpage. Over the next few months, I will be reading a short story featuring Christopher Lockard, his buddy Rick, his sister, Julie and many others. I'll let you all in on their adventures during one amazing summer. A video clip of the story and a link to an activity sheet with related Bible text, discussion questions, crafts or activities, a few corny jokes and a prayer will be available. Most weeks include suggestions for additional stories to read. I hope that you enjoy these stories as much I have loved telling them over the years. I can't wait for you to meet Chris! **Pastor Fred**

Find the link at www.gettysburgtrinityucc.org

Adult Resources are available by clicking on the Faith Formation link on Trinity's webpage

"Trinity Talks" Virtual Gathering Area!

Zoom Weekly Check-In and Prayer Time!

Join us on Thursday mornings at 10AM for a weekly chat time via Zoom! Keep connected, share stories and join in a prayer led by Pastor Fred. The hope is to continue these informal Sunday morning-like "Gathering Area" conversations throughout May and into the summer months. Connection information may change, but below you will find instructions for joining our virtual gathering area! You may join by your computer or telephone/cell phone.

Time: Thursdays at 10AM

Join Zoom Meeting:

Computer

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87699608322?pwd=VVcwUDFHZEZrMmwrejdjBS9RWFEyZz09>

Meeting ID: 876 9960 8322 Password: 421225

OR

Dial by your location (Land Line or Cell Phone)

Phone: 1-301-715-8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 876 9960 8322 Password: 421225

Spiritual Council

The current Elders of Trinity along with the Pastor make up the Spiritual Council. As we continue to navigate unknown territory in worship and church life, if the Pastor is not available for Pastoral Care or other concerns, an Elder may be contacted to assist with the needs of the church. Continue to call the church office or the Pastor to relay your concern or need and together we will make sure all are contacted.

Pastor Young	717-578-3226	Church Office:	717-334-7266
Bette Bunce	rinehartb@superpa.net	Cindy Blevins	717-334-4824
Scott Breininger	717-549-2122	Peter Kuhn	717-659-7274
Joan Peck	717-253-1348	Scott Wehler	717-334-0230

Current ZOOM Meeting Schedule

Our Consistory has been meeting via ZOOM quite successfully. A few other committees have also had wonderful conversations from the comfort of our homes. The following committees have scheduled meetings that will use this technology:

<u>DATE/TIME:</u>	<u>COMMITTEE:</u>
June 1 - 2:00pm	Bazaar
June 8 - 2:00pm	Pastoral Relations
June 8 - 7:00pm	Personnel
June 10 - 6:30pm	Social Concerns
June 11 - 6:30pm	Elders Spiritual Council
June 16 - 7:00pm	Consistory
June 24 - 6:00pm	Christian Education

Consistory is meeting via Zoom every Tuesday evening at 6:45pm thru June to determine the safest and healthiest way to resume in-person worship and gatherings.

Instructions will be sent on how to access these meetings on the computer, but you may also phone into the meeting to listen and add your voice to the discussion.

May 19, 2020 Monthly Meeting of Consistory at 6:45 PM By ZOOM

Key items acted on or discussed were as follows:

Treasurer's Report (April) Bazaar committee made the decision for disbursement of bazaar profits: \$1,000 Mission of Mercy; \$1,000 Soup Kitchen; \$1,000 Hoffman Home for a play yard; \$1,000 Mercy House; \$1,000 SCCAP; and \$3,000 to TUCC for refrigerator in Sacristy and to have stove in kitchen cleaned. \$1,000 being held to be given to the organization that helps kids that outgrow foster care system. Scott Wehler presented financial information for April, with performance of Endowment funds at UCF down 7.4% from the first of the year until May 12, 2020 (dollar reduction is \$50,383). Other investments status and income from the Payroll Protection Plan were described in his submitted report.

Approved April Consistory Minutes

Pastor Updates – Submitted report. Keep praying for staff as we move through the pandemic, with the many changes and changes to daily schedules also.

PPP Loan Application (Paycheck Protection Program) – Financial Analysis – Since the PPP loan application of April 3, and subsequent additional guidance, with discussion at previous Consistory meetings, more guidance from the Small Business Administration (SBA) came out in the first week of May, suggesting that loan recipients prepare a statement of their financial status at the time of loan application. It was felt that it would be a good business practice to go ahead and establish the documentation on the reasoning at the time of the loan application. A small loan analysis group will accomplish this documentation

All Church Retreat (Choices are Oct 16-18 or Nov 6-8) – Pastor Young – Not cancelling at this point. Hoping to be able to have something there in Fall. Those dates are reserved.

Coldsmith Roof Estimate/ Brethren Mutual Inspection Letter - Property committee met. Bob Bunce and Jane Alleman agreed to co-coordinate with Coldsmith. Bob met with them re: UUG roof. Asking to have work done by beginning of July, to satisfy insurance company (\$500). Roof has been in place 27 years (30 year roof). Estimate to replace \$17,000. Property will continue to look at this to get the insurance company issue addressed.

Coldsmith Estimate/Other Building and Roof issues:

Repointing the building. Property looked at Coldsmith proposal. Some of the work will be done and some will be on hold. Need to move forward with outside of Library/Fellowship siding removal and replacement- \$3,500. Water is getting in behind siding, causing a leak in Fellowship Hall. **A Motion to get the \$3,500 project done (siding/repaint) carried.** Coping Stones, Chimney area and repoint, plus belltower re-work are on hold for now. Property to look into it further. The rubber roof over the office need to be replaced at \$16,000-\$20,00 is on hold as well. Bat mitigation is another issue with an estimate by a wildlife control organization (sanctuary) is over \$9,000 estimate. Have decided to put it on hold as time is crucial due to mating season and being endangered species. Many items to coordinate and prioritize with \$20 - \$50,000 estimated costs depending on level of work and quality of materials.

Computer Needs/Treysta – The new computer was installed for Deb on Thursday, May 14th and so far, all is working well. Karen was able to do payroll and write checks without issue, using Deb's old computer will be taken to be cleaned, reloaded and installed at Karen's desk.

Consistory Vacancy – Cindy reported three members to be asked to find a replacement and is in the process.

Trinity Connections: Call Lists for supporting our members during pandemic – Lists completed and sent out.

COVID Closure Status Update – Motion carried to continue on-line services through June to give Consistory time to plan for reopening.

Steps to Normalcy: - Planning for the resumption of Worship – How will that look? Based on governmental and societal restrictions, building readiness, health assurance. What step-wise plans can we put in place? Please review documents sent from Conference minister, describing phases. A lot to discuss – having multiple services, sanitizing after each one, (pews, bulletins, doors, restrooms, etc); how many to attend each time (if limit is 25 including pastor, music staff, readers) what happens to the 26th person that shows up; wearing masks and gloves; seating arrangements, etc. A plan needs to be set which will take time. Suggestion made for Consistory to meet weekly 45 mins to devise a plan just for this issue. Things changing on weekly basis, and formal planning needs to begin. Motion carried **for Consistory to meet once a week, for 45 mins to discuss a plan.**

New Business

Gathering Area: furniture update – Lewis built a beautiful table now in place. Looks great!

Trinity Talks – Thursday Trinity Talks are going well. Pastor and Kara doing “drive by ministry” also going well. Lewis asked about the long-distance charges to people calling in to Trinity Talks? Rayna/Fred will be looking into it. Will send link weekly so it's at fingertips for people. No agenda, talk about their days, prayer offered. Meet for about 50 – 60 mins.

Employee Court Leave Policy – Ruth – Policy presented for acceptance this meeting and adopt at next meeting. Basically, employee will be paid for up to two weeks for jury duty. Anything beyond two weeks would be case by case. Summons to serve and being released would be given to Personnel and the Pastor. Policy is not valid for personal situations involving appearing in court, etc.

UUG request – They are requesting help with their rent due to financial difficulties from COVID 19. Do not have a lot of specifics but we will be meeting with them for further information via a Zoom meeting.

Pastor mentioned that some committees have not met yet by zoom and he will be contacting them to do so.

Publicity: Ruth mentioned that they tried to get a piece in the newspaper with pictures thanking the staff for their hard work during COVID 19. Ended up being a tiny small piece in church briefs. Possibly a story in the future regarding Bazaar money going to local charities. They are giving out \$9 -10,000 this year. Scott B. mentioned that the newspaper has slimmed down publishing and delivery during these times. Might be good to wait until they are up and running full printing and delivery.

Around the Bell Tower - Georgia meeting with Jamey Lerew AV Solutions – Biglerville tomorrow to discuss audio/visual upgrades. Rayna mentioned cutting back on paper items that need to be given out, and having the bulletin posted on a screen. Ruth commented that the need for an on-line presence is not going to go away when this is over. A lot of people are viewing the services. Pastor mentioned that viewing has been as high as 400 and getting “likes” from people he does not know. Should investigate getting the You Tube channel to stream/post.

Next Meeting Date – June 16

Adjourn Lord's Prayer

TOWARD WHAT END?

With the push and pull of public feelings about re-opening churches during the pandemic, I found an interesting item in the Gettysburg Times (“Religious Freedom Amidst a Plague” by Michael Cooper-White, President Emeritus of Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary, G.T. 5/21/20).

Quoting Martin Luther, as the bubonic plague raged through Europe 500 years ago, Cooper-White reports that Luther wrote “I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine, and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence.”

For me, reading Luther’s quote captured the times of that civilization 500 years in the past and stitched it into the fabric of our current society. We still deal with pandemic plagues in the same way! 1) We pray to God for protection 2) We do those things that will physically protect us (sanitizing, wearing masks, welcoming fresh air, and using medicines/treatments) and 3) We practice distancing, such as avoiding places we are not needed (essential services!), keeping 6 feet or more from other people, and avoiding congested or confined indoor spaces. We do these things for the same reasons - to avoid becoming infected ourselves and possibly infecting others to the point of contributing to their death, as Luther pointed out.

Cooper-White explains how religious freedom is defined, and the legal constraints placed on the practice of religion in the United States. Churches are governed by civil law and governments can limit the size of assemblies in buildings during normal times and during extraordinary times to protect the health of the public. Government cannot intrude in the core matters of what we believe and how we worship (if laws are not broken). But public officials have the responsibility to regulate certain aspects of religious life in the interest of health, safety, and the universal rights of all.

The last paragraph of the article struck me, as Consistory is forging ahead with plans for reopening Trinity in a safe manner. Noting that “there are times when people of faith must protest and even rise up in opposition to governments infringing on true religious freedom and basic human rights”, he asks if “temporary closures and limitations on crowd size for a season of pandemic are truly cause to rush to the ramparts?”

Martin Luther claimed that careful adherence to public health guidelines is perhaps the boldest witness to Godly care for our neighbor. The goal of Consistory is to get us worshipping together again, in the safest way possible. After all, the people are the church. Stay tuned – we will get there!

Rayna Cooper,
Consistory Chair

Ways to continue to support the work of Trinity!

Now more than ever it remains vital that we support our church, spiritually and financially. Even though we are not physically worshipping together, the work of our church continues.

- **E-Giving:** Find instructions under either the Members tab OR
- **Missions in Giving** tab on our website at www.gettysburgtrinityucc.org. Or request a printout of the 2 page information leaflet from the office.
- Use the automatic bill paying service your bank provides you (if applicable). You can set up single payments or regular payments to be transferred into the church account, or to be mailed to the church through the post office, depending on your bank.
- **Mail your offering envelope to the church by U.S. mail**
Trinity United Church of Christ, 60 E. High St.,
Gettysburg, PA 17325

Financial Status as of May 24, 2020

Envelope offering needed: **\$74,718.00**
Envelope offering received to date: **\$70,222.71**
(**\$71,258.00** in 2019)
Property Fund needed: **\$6,468.00**
Property Fund received to date: **\$8,455.00**



Worship Attendance

In-person June Worship services are being live-streamed through our Facebook page and are available on our web page for later viewing. Attendance on the live-stream has been between 200 - 300 each week.



John Hoffman

June 14

Cole Hoffman

June 17

Bob Miller

June 14

Gene Motter

June 16

Juene McGlaughlin

June 1



In our thoughts and prayers:

Ashur Bowley, Ken Bucher, Darla Jean Christopher, John Harrison Hoffman, Donald Hubbard, Sr., Evelyn Kretz, MacKenzie Kretz, Josh Langley, Mary Lovelace, Bob Miller, Kathy Murphy, Loel Rosenberry, Casey Mullooly, Ashlee (Black) Pyne, Bonnie Smith, Tom Smith, Julie Strickland, Bill Swisher, Mary Timmins, Brea Thomas, Elizabeth & Sandy Topper, Mckenna Voss, Brenda Wagner, Teeyara Jo Weiant. *(Please notify the office when a name can be removed from the list).*



The Blevins

Cindy & Don

June 29



Thank you church family for all of your prayers, cards, condolences and meals for the recent loss of Peter Wilson and Andy Langley. From the Langley, Harner, and Wilson Families.

Getting to know staff:

Lisa Reinoehl

Sexton, Lisa Reinoehl, born and raised in Gettysburg, has been with us since 2007. She says she likes the people here who are both helpful and nice. The variety of tasks she performs during her work days are a big plus for her.

Lisa lives in Heidlersburg with her son, Brandon. Her parents, two sisters and one brother live nearby. Three other brothers live “down south”.

In her spare time, Lisa enjoys painting by number and searching for new additions to her collection of yard art. She also welcomes a bite or two of her favorite food, pizza.

If you want to know anything about having turtles as pets, Lisa is the person to ask. She has 3 painted turtles that she found in her mother’s garden when they were about the size of quarters, that was 7 years ago. She also has a box turtle who loves to eat frozen strawberries, he won’t touch fresh ones!

Lisa really enjoys the challenge of problem solving and working to perform tasks both at work and at home. Finding a better way to get the job done gives her a feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction.

We are fortunate to have Lisa working on our behalf.

Thank you to The Hilbert’s for building the much needed History Cabinet that is located in the vestibule. It will display Trinity’s most important historical documents and pictures.

Thank you also to Lewis Hilbert for building the end table for the Gathering Area.

Please stop by and have a look. Such a God given talent to be able to produce these most beautiful pieces of furniture for our church.

Donations are being accepted to help fund these projects. Envelopes are located in the pews and the gathering area. Please note in memo: *New Furniture*

Church Pictorial Update

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions and the generous offer of Scott Wehler to compose and layout our church directory we are going to handle things ourselves. As a result we need the congregation’s help to complete the directory. We are asking each individual, couple, or family to supply a photograph that they would like to appear next to their address information in the directory.

Specifications for photographs:

Photos may be digital or hard copy. Hard copy photos will be scanned in and cropped to fit the space available.

Deadline to submit July 15th.

We also would like photos of any events in the life of Trinity that you would like to submit.

Please submit photographs to:

Sue Churchill
355 Sachs Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325



Congratulations to Adrienne Chase! who graduated this Spring from Washington College in Chestertown, MD. She has earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology with minors in Chemistry and Psychology. Her future plans

involve pursuing a Masters Degree in Genetic Counseling. She is daughter of Mike and Sandy Chase.

Congratulations to Nathaniel Newberry, who was one of 147 students named 2019-20 Bloomsburg University Scholar-Athletes. He is a member of the Wrestling team and was recognized for his academic achievement for a grade point average of 3.25 or higher over the past two semesters and have a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 or higher.

Nathaniel is the son of Lisa & Tom Newberry.



Looking forward to the future:

***Please* hold the dates for this years POSSIBLE 42nd Trinity UCC Bazaar: December 4, 5, & 6.**

We are distributing close to \$10,000 to various Community Charities from 2019 Bazaar proceeds.

Please mark your calendars and make this the year you give us some of your time. Find out what you have been missing!

Suzy Miller, Bazaar Chair

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Gettysburg, PA 17325
Permit No. 199

Trinity United Church of Christ
60 E. High Street
Gettysburg, PA 17325—2319
(717) 334-7266

Staff

Rev. Dr. Frederick A. Young, Pastor

Deb Guiher, Admin. Assistant
Karen Lentz, Account/Payroll Mgr.

John McKay, Director Senior Choir
Jane Eiker, Organist
Audrey Blackstone, Asst. Organist

Lisa Reinoehl, Sexton

Rayna Cooper, Consistory Chair
Joan Peck, Consistory Vice Chair

Worship June 2020

June 7

**Trinity Sunday
Holy Communion**

Genesis 1:1-2:4a Psalm 8 2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

June 14

Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7) Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 Romans 5:1-8
Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

June 21

Father's Day

Genesis 21:8-21 Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 Romans 6:1b-11
Matthew 10:24-39

June 28

Genesis 22:1-14 Psalm 13 Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42

To access our on-line worship feed,
please go to our website:

www.gettysburgtrinityucc.org

Or our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/GettysburgTrinityUCC

*Trinity truly believes that whoever you are,
and wherever you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*

