



# UNITY

By the time you read this message, the United Methodist Church General Conference would have adopted a way for the church to continue to move forward to accomplish the mission of the church. However, I believe that a word on the matter of Church unity is important to our understanding of who we are. In John 17:20-23, Jesus prays for all of us who belong to the Church to be united as one even as he and the Father are one, it is this unity that will serve to advance the mission of God in the world.

As Tim Keller writes in his book *Center Church*, "If we bash and criticize other kinds of churches, we play into the common opinion that all Christians are intolerant. If we are not united, the world writes us off, and perhaps, in light of Jesus' high priestly prayer in John 17:23 'may they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me', they have a right to do so!" Clearly, we should really care about the unity of the Church, the unity of the body of Christ. As we consider the idea of unity, we should ask ourselves the question: What is hindering us from living this out?

## Four Roadblocks to Unity

The first roadblock, an incomplete understanding of what practical unity means. Usually, people think about the unity of the church as the unity that takes place in a given congregation. Seldom do people realize that when Paul speaks of unity he is not

speaking to one congregation (or one church on the west side of Frederick); on the contrary, when Paul speaks about unity of the church in Romans 15, he is speaking to the entire Church of God in Rome, the entire community of believers

in Rome, and for that matter to all of us today. The unity that Paul called the Romans to live out was not based on uniformity. Without a doubt, the congregations in Rome, and for that matter in the first century, were anything but uniform (see Romans 3, 9, 14; see also I Corinthians 1-2; 11-14; Galatians 1-2; Ephesians 2; Philippians 4; and more).

We can also observe in the book of Acts that the various local congregations in a given city or region were collectively referred to as "the Church" in that particular place (see for example Acts 9:31, 11:22, and 15:3). Clearly, we can read that working towards biblical unity means reaching beyond our comfortable places in order to partner with other congregations and in order to fulfill the mission of God in the world, recognizing that together we, with all our theological differences, we make up the body of Christ.

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This is why Paul urged the Romans to embrace diversity under the lordship of Jesus (14:1 – 12); he offered practical advice on cultivating unity in the churches (14:13 – 23); he urged them to imitate Christ in these matters and thereby glorify God (15:1 – 6); and, finally, he exhorted them to welcome each other just as Christ welcomed them (15:7 – 13). They were welcomed in Christ not because they agreed on all things with each other but because God welcomed them to be one people, one body.

A second roadblock is the contradictory understanding of the importance of doctrine. Clearly, sound doctrine is vital for the health of the Christian Church (2 Timothy 1:13), and in being aware of this, a significant number of churches are skeptical about pursuing unity with congregations that they perceive to be less doctrinally sound. Undoubtedly, doctrine matters in the Church. Notwithstanding, the UNITY of the Church is one of those doctrines, which many times is tossed out the window in the conversation about the importance of doctrines. It seems as if we can do away with the UNITY of the Church when debating or discussing other doctrines some people consider weightier in matters of faith.

We cannot ignore the doctrine about the unity of the Church under the guise of upholding doctrine. This would be an oxymoron that is mounted on a great amount of pride. No doubt there will be some tension as we must remain faithful to the centrality of Jesus' teachings, but we must be careful not to flippantly disregard one doctrine in the name of protecting another.

A third roadblock to the unity of the church is the confusion about the implications of the Church's already existing unity. Some people ignore the work of church unity by saying that the church is already unified. They sustain that Jesus died to make his church one, that the cross is the answer to his prayer in John 17, so we don't really need to worry about the church's unity. But, if we

were to follow the same line of reasoning, we might equally conclude that the church shouldn't seek to live holy lives, because Jesus already made us holy through his death. However, though Scripture teaches that we have in fact already been made holy (1 Corinthians 6:11), we are still called to live out this identity by walking in holiness (1 Peter 1:14-16). Jesus has established unity (Ephesians 2:11-22) but we are clearly called to live in light of that reality and strive to maintain the unity of the Spirit (Ephesians 4:1-3). As Paul so eloquently reminds us:

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. (Philippians 2:1-4)

Fourth, and final roadblock to unity, is the sin of kingdom building. Let me be clear, this is not to say that we should not work or strive towards the building of God's kingdom on earth. The roadblock to unity is when we move from building God's kingdom to build our own little kingdoms. Pastors and churches struggle to "build" their own successful church. You know the church I am talking about, the one that has the best worship team in town, the best preaching in the area, the largest congregation, the one with all the college students and young couples, the one that proclaims to have the true teachings of Jesus. That is the church we all want! So, we have equated these shallow communal expressions with our little expressions of God's kingdom without the understanding that there is only one Church with many members spread throughout the community, and Jesus is the head of them all.

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The unity of the Church is only possible when we are willing and open to do what God wants from us, that is, all of us. The unity of the church is not founded in who can quote more biblical passages, or who can recite the Apostles or Nicene Creeds, or who can recite the articles of faith in the United Methodist Church Book of Discipline. The unity of the Church is founded in Jesus' teaching, in his call to obey his commandment: "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love..." "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." "You are my friends if you do what I command you." (John 15:9-10, 12, 14). His commandment lead us not to a set of rules that have to be followed (as with the law), but to a way of

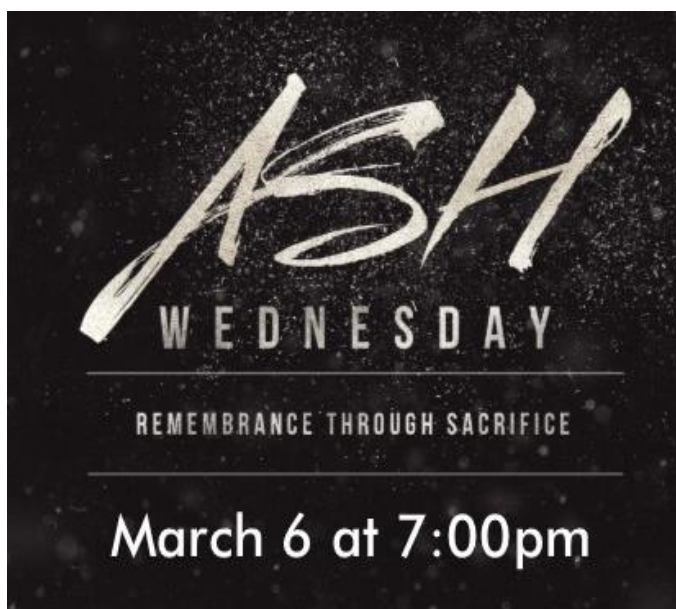
being in relation to our fellow human beings (Matthew 25:31-46). This is why the prophet asked the people of Israel, "What does the Lord require of you?" He does not come up with a set of theological concepts, or doctrinal principles but with the simplest of rules:

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of you but  
to do justice, and to love kindness, and to  
walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8)

Let us love one another as if our salvation depends on it because by doing so we will work for the unity of the Church, and transform the world in the name of Jesus.

In Christ's Service,

*Walter C. Caputo*



## A NEW TWIST ON TRIVIA NIGHT!

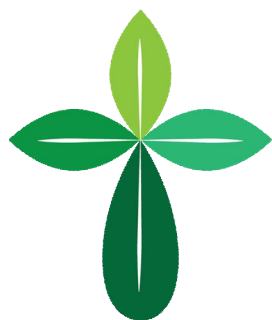
Friday, March 22 at 7pm



Feud Time is different from our normal trivia night... anyone can play! Instead of "fact-based" questions and answers, we surveyed the nation with a series of questions. Teams compete by trying to guess the top answers!

It truly evens out the playing field, and anyone can win... so whether you have a team of 2 or 6, prepare to have a fun and exciting time! And yes... there is a trophy!

## TRINITY PASTORAL COUNSELING CENTER



March has two particularly important awareness issues for mental health. Sleep and the brain. From March 3-10, National Sleep Awareness Week is celebrated. Immediately following that week from March 11- 17, is Brain Health Awareness Week. The whole month of March is

National Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness Month. To pull this together, we can say that good brain health and support for healing a brain involves good sleep.

For some, this can be easier said than done. Those times in life when sleep is a problem can impact everything

from one's alertness and mood to long-term consequences of increasing the likelihood to illnesses like heart disease and certain cancer.

If sleep is a problem, talk to your doctor. If health issues have been ruled out, counselors are trained to help people learn habits of better sleep-inducing behaviors & developing a plan for better sleep – called sleep hygiene. Getting enough sleep – not too much or too little – is important for our brain's nightly renewal process.

Let's take care of our bodies and particularly our brains with better sleep, so that we are wide awake for our lives in the world.

*Diane Younkjins, LCPC*



## CONNECTING TO GOD THROUGH WORSHIP

by Curtis Osborne

Throughout one's faith journey, regardless of your age when it began, there comes a time when something happens that resonates deep inside your soul and you feel a connection to God. It could happen through many different pathways. It might be through prayer or meditation. It could be through preaching. It could be through a piece of artwork. It could be through nature. But many of us experience God in a deep way, in our soul, through church, in particular worship service.

As a child, when I was going to church and Sunday school, even though I enjoyed it, had a great time and learned a lot, my connection to God seemed to become real to me through the worship music. I had moments where I listened intently to the music, but on a more spiritual level, I felt it inside my soul. As a 8 or 9 year old, I could not explain eloquently what was happening to me, but I knew the music made me feel good, and sometimes I felt like I was having an out of body experience.

The right song, at the right time in a service, could transform one's spirit and put them into a deep Godly connection. It gave me great pleasure and joy, a joy deep down inside of me that transcended anything else that I ever felt.

"Beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us"

*Martin Luther*

But when I was younger, I was not clued in to what it was. It wasn't until I was an adult when I knew what it was and could verbalize it. Even though a great sermon always touched my being, it was it was music that touched my soul and gave me a connection with the Divine. I am acutely aware of being

cognizant of how music affected me on an emotional level when I was a child. But I will never forget how one song just reached into my soul. I had to be about 10 years old and I heard "Oh Happy Day" by the Edwin Hawkins Singers. My parents would play it on their 8 track stereo and I remember that song just reached into my soul and gave me goosebumps. I remember tears

welling up in my eyes for no known reason. It was just such a powerful song and I remember closing my eyes and was like in a meditative state, sitting on the floor next to the stereo. And I felt that God was talking to me through the music. It transported me. To this very day, when I hear that song on the radio or on youtube, I freeze in my tracks and I get goose bumps all over again.

Music has that effect on many people. That situation is not unique to just me. Many believers have a similar experience. I have been to church since I was about 5 years old and even though there were times over the years when I was not in church, I still would go out of my way to listen to songs that touched me on a deeper level. And it wasn't always just through gospel music. Whether it was seeing Roy Clark on Hee Haw singing a blue grass hymn. Or listening to the Stanley Brothers on the soundtrack of O Brother Where Art Thou. I went to Catholic masses with friends and family members and sometimes ethereal choir singing took me to another place. Hypnotic Gregorian monk chants have done it for me too. Music can fill people with the holy-spirit easily.

Now, I realize that you don't go to church just for the music. You go to church to worship God and of course, great preaching can also connect on a spiritual level that has you feeling God's presence deep down in your soul. Worship is not just you just sitting in a pew, but it is an "experience". It is a time and place to experience God. Music connects to the divine in ways that we really can't explain, but we EXPERIENCE it. You can experience a connection to the divine both as a listener and as a performer. When you get into that unexplainable "zone", your mind becomes decluttered and our focus is completely on God. Music allows us to fulfill Jesus's commandment of loving the Lord with all your heart, soul and mind because music blends all of the parts of us...intellect, emotions, heart and soul. All in our physical vessels. It fills us with joy.

God strongly supports the use of music in worship both in the New Testament and Old Testament. The importance and value that God places on music is undeniable. Music and spirituality go hand in hand. Deep down in our soul, we are looking for something greater than ourselves. Music can touch that place, whether it's a praise band, a choir, a church organ or just a singer and piano. It can resonate in your soul in

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Handel, after finishing composing the chorus to Messiah, with tears streaming down his face, turned to his servant and said "I did think I did see all Heaven before me, and the great God himself."

ways that other expressions of art can't. Churches have used music for over 1000 years. When we engage in joyful shouting in church, in singing and in praise, when you are with other believers, it becomes a unified, communal experience. Worship is an invitation to be noisy. If you look at Psalms 98, it states that when

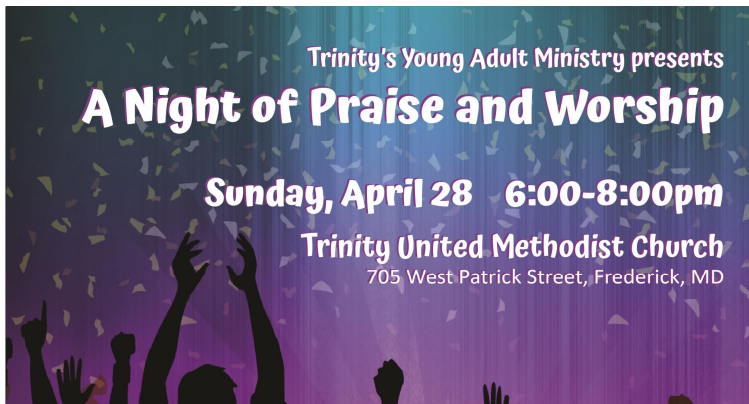
we make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the Earth will break forth into joyous song and sing praises. That is very powerful and being in a setting where the holy-spirit has taken over a congregation in song can be very soul stirring.

And look further at what the musical sound of the rest of the Earth makes: "let the sea roar", "let the river clap their hands", "let the hills sing for joy"....that tells you all you need to know about the God inspiring power of music. Music is the symphony of your soul. God intended for music to be a connection to the soul and through your heart, your connection is to Him.

*"Beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us" is a quote from Martin Luther.*

*Handel, after finishing composing the chorus to Messiah, with tears streaming down his face, turned to his servant and said "I did think I did see all Heaven before me, and the great God himself."*

Music can be sacred. When it is created from the heart, sang from the heart, played from the heart, all for God's glory, it can't help but fill you with God's presence.



The Lord calls us to Worship! Join the TUMC's Connection Young Adult Ministry for a night of praise, inspiration, and delicious treats! The worship night will showcase local praise bands and be held in Trinity's Sanctuary on April 28<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm. You don't want to miss out! We will also be collecting a free will offering to support Laura Welker's upcoming missions trip to Tanzania serving with Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Distribution.

## Second Sunday Soup for \$7 a quart on March 10!

The Women's Ministry team will have homemade soups for sale on March 10. All proceeds will go to International Justice Ministry (IJM).



## Second Sunday Soups

### Soup makers needed!

If you would like to make soup, we will have empty containers for you to fill located in the Narthex. Please bring the soup-filled containers back to the church kitchen on Saturday, 3/9 from 10am – 12pm. Please bring a list of ingredients when you drop off your soup (for allergies).

Contact Carol Romer 240-575-9958 if you have any questions or can provide soup.



Are you actively involved in the ministry of your church? If not, we have many ministries that might be the perfect fit for you! Here are a few ways you can serve:

- Missions
- Trustees
- Youth
- Church & Society
- Hospitality
- Staff Parish
- Women's
- Member Care
- Worship
- Children
- Education
- Stewardship

For more info, contact Heather at 301-662-2895 or [heatherthrockmorton@trinityfrederick.org](mailto:heatherthrockmorton@trinityfrederick.org).

# MARCH 2019

## TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

(MT=Ministry Team)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div> <div> <b>SUNDAY SCHEDULE</b>  8:45 am - Contemporary Worship  9:55 am - Grow Time for ALL ages  11:10 am - Traditional Worship  <i>Staffed nursery care provided all morning</i> </div> <div> <b>SUNDAY CHOIRS</b>  5:10 pm Youth Choir  6:00 pm Trinity Brass  Room 206 Sanctuary </div> </div>						
<b>3</b> <i>Holy Communion</i> 4:00 pm FPU in Spanish 6:30 pm LOL Youth Group	<b>4</b> 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:00 pm Church Council	<b>5</b> 8:00 am Men's Bible Study	<b>6</b> 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship	<b>7</b> 6:00 pm Missions MT	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> <i>Second Sunday Soup</i> 12:30 pm Children's MT 4:00 pm FPU in Spanish 6:30 pm LOL Youth Group	<b>11</b> 6:30 pm Praise Team	<b>12</b> 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 6:30 pm Altar Guild	<b>13</b> 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm Women's MT 6:00 pm Taizé Service 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	<b>14</b> 6:00 pm Fellowship & Hospitality MT 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 5:00 pm Kids in Action
<b>17</b> 12:30 pm Church & Society MT 4:00 pm FPU in Spanish 6:30 pm LOL Youth Group	<b>18</b> 6:30 pm Praise Team	<b>19</b> 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 6:30 pm Member Care & Nurture MT 6:30 pm TPCC MT	<b>20</b> 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	<b>21</b> 7:00 pm Stewardship & Finance MT	<b>22</b> 7:00 pm Feud Time Game Night	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 4:00 pm FPU in Spanish 6:30 pm LOL Youth Group	<b>25</b> 11:30 am J.O.Y. Club Senior Luncheon 6:30 pm Praise Team	<b>26</b> 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 5:00 pm Take Out Tuesday 6:30 pm Trustees MT	<b>27</b> 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 1:00 pm Newsletter Collating 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	<b>28</b> 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 4:00 pm FPU in Spanish 6:30 pm LOL Youth Group						

## MARCH VOLUNTEERS

Date	Drivers	Lay Readers	Ushers	Greeters
3/3	Matt Stegle 301-694-2649	Carol Romer	8:45 - Bill Adamo 11:10 - Jerry Ryan, Glenna Green, Pam Lesperance, and Adrian Winpigler	8:45 - Don & Ruby Fine 11:10 - Janey Andrews and Nancy Shipe
3/10	Lars DeSalvio 301-471-7466	Kay Etzler	8:45 - Bill & Lynn Martin 11:10 - Larry Boyer, Dave Romer, and Judy & Michele Pickens	8:45 - Michael & Marisa Hombach 11:10 - Carol DeGirolamo and Gloria Pearson
3/17	Bill Etzler 301-798-3469	Peggy Rowley	8:45 - Don & Ruby Fine 11:10 - Larry Boyer, Barb Ellis, Mikayla McNamee, and Rachel Kenny	8:45 - Wayne Buckingham and Chris Kenny 11:10 - Mike Dean & Dee Demich
3/24	David Eisentraut 301-371-3534	Christy DeFrance	8:45 - Larry Smith 11:10 - Larry Boyer, Don Hott, and Doug & Mary Wallick.	8:45 - Tom & Marian Paradise 11:10 - Naomi Flohr and Pam Lesperance
3/31	Matt Stegle 301-694-2649	Youth	8:45 - Youth 11:10 - Youth	8:45 - Youth 11:10 - Youth



**SAVE THE DATES!  
SAVE A LIFE!**

**Thursday, May 30**

**Thursday, October 10**

### NEWSLETTER COLLATING DATES

Wednesday March 27 1pm  
Thursday April 25 1pm  
Wednesday May 29 1pm

These dates are subject to change. We are always looking for more volunteers. If you can help, please call Ruby Fine at 301-371-5617.

### NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Please submit your information or article for the monthly Newsletter in one of the following ways :

- mail or deliver to the church office
- email to [TUMC@trinityfrederick.org](mailto:TUMC@trinityfrederick.org).

Information for the April 2019 Newsletter will be due the second Sunday of March – March 10.



The church office hours are 9am - 4pm, Monday through Friday.

Pastor Eliezer's day off is Friday. He is normally in the office Monday through Thursday. Your pastor is ALWAYS available by phone.

Eliezer: 301-662-2895(work) and 301-620-8885(home)



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Frederick, MD 21701

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tumc@trinityfrederick.org  
www.trinityfrederick.org

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Permit #12

## CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

**TAKE THE NIGHT OFF! LET US DO THE COOKING FOR YOU!**  
*All Profits will support Operation Christmas Child.*

Date	Menu		# Meals
3/26	Chicken Tetrizzini Salad	Roll Raspberry Bar	
4/23	Meat Loaf Macaroni & Cheese	Green Beans Brownie	
5/21	BBQ Pork Sandwich Cole Slaw	Pasta Salad Cookie	
Total # of Meals			
Total Cost			

**COST :** \$8.00 / MEAL  
\$30.00 / 4 MEALS



**5:00 - 6:30pm**  
*Curbside Carry-out at the  
Multipurpose Room*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mark if you are including your payment by: ☐ CHECK ☐ CASH

*Meals must be prepaid by the Sunday prior to the desired date. Please make checks out to TUMC and memo "Take Out Tuesday".*