



PROPHETIC IMAGINATION

During the month of July we have been talking about prophets and their ministry as people entrusted with the word of God. These were the people who proclaim a message of liberation for the whole human family. The prophets were the people who guided Jesus' ministry with regards to understanding the will of God. The prophets loved worship but a worship that will not set to the side justice, love, mercy, and compassion.

As a matter of fact, as we explored the theme of Living as Disciples for the month of July and part of August, we learned from the prophets Amos and Hosea, how they carry their ministries to the people of Israel (or, in this time, the Northern Kingdom). We heard how they sought to live out their calling during challenging times. They preached a message of judgement for Israel. These prophets reminded the Kingdom of Israel that God had placed a judgement against them because they did not live righteous lives, nor did they show love, justice, mercy, and compassion. Israel's witness did not measure-up to God's expectations of justice and righteousness (Amos 7:7).

So, if we gather anything from these prophets is the fact that God has expectations from us. If we decide to live as disciples of Jesus, there is a way of life that is expected from us, just as the prophets reminded the people in Israel (see Micah 6:8). Hosea tells us that God "desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings" (6:6). And, Amos declared what God expected of his people: "But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" (Amos 5:24). For the prophets, as for Jesus, justice, righteousness, mercy, love, compassion, and worship can never be separated. As Jesus reminded his audience in Matthew: "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cummin, and have neglected the **weightier** matters of the law: *justice* and *mercy* and *faith*. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others." (23:23; see also Mt. 15:8-9) **bold** and *italics* are mine).

I find the words of the Rev. Charles H. Spurgeon very eloquently when he described for us why the words of the prophet Amos are so relevant today. At the end of the sermon (The Plumb Line), which he preached on August 27, 1876, he said:

This is dreadful talk," some of you may be saying. It is; it is; and it is a dreadful business altogether for the lost—that being driven from God's presence when you die—hearing Him say, "Depart, you cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." You do not like to hear about this, and I do not like to preach about it; only I must do so, lest you come unto that place of torment because I failed to warn you. Then might you say, in your despair, "O cursed preacher! O unfaithful minister! You tried to tickle our ears with pleasant things, but you left out all allusions to the wrath to come. You toned down the truth, you softened it, and now we are ruined forever through your wicked desire to please our foolish ears." ... Then [he continued], I implore you, make sure work for eternity by laying hold on Christ Jesus. Yield yourself up to Him, that He may make you right where you are wrong, put you in gear with God, and set you running parallel with the will of the Most High; that He, indeed, may build you up on the perpendicular, on the solid foundation of His eternal merits by faith, through the power of the ever-blessed Spirit—that you may be so built that when God Himself holds the plumb line, it may hang straight down, and He will be able to say, "It is all right."

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Indeed, we who live as disciples of Jesus have become the ones entrusted with this challenging word of God, or as Spurgeon call it: "dreadful talk." We have been given the authority to proclaim God's words to a hurting world (Matthew 28:18-20). The word we are called to proclaim is to remind others that as followers of Jesus our core moral and ethical practice is to love (Mark 12:30-31; Matthew 7:12). But not just any love, we are called to love as we have been loved by God (John 3:16-18).

Indeed, as a follower of Jesus one cannot simply say that "I believe in Jesus," as if that is all there is to being a disciple of Jesus. To live as a disciple of Jesus means to love like he loved (John 15:12-13), to do all the good we can (Matthew 6:2-4), to forgive as we have been forgiven (Matthew 6:14-15), to care for the little ones of the world whom God cares for (Matthew 25:31-46). To love even those who hate us, like God loves us, will make us be perfect, that is, truly living in the justice of God (Matthew 5:43-48).

Therefore, the prophets reminded us that when we speak on behalf of God, we remind the people in our communities what is God's will for them, and for the world. This ministry This is a challenging task which requires that we love God with all our hearts, minds, and strength, and it implies that we are willing to surrender everything to God, in order to honor and glorify God in everything.

This brings to mind the teachings of John Wesley regarding a total surrendering of our lives to God. When we love God and seek to obey him we do it

with everything we have and everything we are. When our righteousness is rooted in gratitude for God's generosity, it becomes clear how we fulfill the great commandment to love God and neighbor. Wesley was convinced that if the Methodists would surrender their all, then all would have enough. When we give our all to God it implies that everyone, without exclusion, will have a place at the table of God's abundance. Never have Paul's words ringed so true: "And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

Thus, when speaking of one of these gifts we have received from God, money, John Wesley said: "is an excellent gift of God, answering the noblest ends. In the hands of his children [*the righteous*], it is food for the hungry, drink for the thirsty, raiment for the naked. It gives to the traveler and the stranger where to lay his head. By it we may supply the place of a husband to the widow, and of a father for the fatherless; we may be a defense for the oppressed, a means of health to the sick, of ease to them that are in pain. It may be as eyes to the blind, as feet to the lame; yea, a lifter up from the gates of death."

Then, again, we can see that the prophets' intent for us is to live lives measured by God's plumb line (righteousness), which brings us back to our need for worship but a worship that will not set to the side justice, love, mercy, and compassion; for without these worship is but an empty activity (Amos 5:21-24; Isaiah 29:13; Matthew 15:8-9).

Your servant in Christ,



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OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



We will be collecting SCHOOL SUPPLIES in the month of August for our Operation Christmas Child packing party to be held in November.

- Pens & pencils
- Sharpeners
- Scissors
- Rulers
- Crayons
- Small note books
- Markers
- Solar calculators
- Coloring books

Donated items may be placed in the collection center in the narthex. If you have questions, please contact Laura Welker at yardwelk@aol.com or 301-788-0048.

TRINITY PASTORAL COUNSELING CENTER

Trinity Pastoral Counseling Center (TPCC) joyfully continues its ministry of serving people of all faiths in the larger Frederick Community and without turning people away due to finances. We do that in part because of donations - large and small.

This year we will be receiving \$1550 from Combined Charities from past donations. Because this is a simple and useful tool for some people to support TPCC, we want to encourage people to continue give in that way.

We also want to remind people that direct giving to TPCC is encouraged. The full funds are deposited directly to the scholarship fund. This account is used to draw from to offset the difference in payment from clients. This is as simple as writing a check to TPCC for the desired contribution. Every client is expected to contribute something towards their counseling. The scholarship fund allows the Center to see people who might otherwise not be able to afford counseling by making up some of the difference in fees.

No matter the vehicle for giving, on behalf of the center, thank you to everyone for supporting this valuable service in the community.

Blessings,
Diane Younkings, LCPC, NCC
Director



Starting September 8
Sundays at 4:00pm
Register at <https://fpu.com/1089341>

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE MINISTRY TEAM

In addition to the giving of a monetary gift, there are many ways you can support the ministries and missions of Trinity United Methodist Church. There are many opportunities for charitable giving. This list is just some examples for you and your family to consider.

1. **Gift of your time and talents:** God has given each of us talents and the church often has a need for those skills. You can help the Church with your skills, such as plumbing, HVAC, electrical, gardening, fixing appliances or lawnmowers, painting, computers, lighting, sewing, etc. Let the Church know how you would like to help by putting a business card or note in the offering plate or calling/e-mailing the church office. Many ministry teams could benefit from your skills and talents.
2. **Gift of appreciated property:** Some of us have appreciated stock, bonds, real estate or collectibles. The property must have been owned at least one year. You get a charitable deduction for the average market value as of the date of the gift and you do not have to pay capital gains because you gifted the property rather than the cash.
3. **Stock in a privately held company:** Does your closely held company wish to buy back some of its stock? Your shares could be donated to the church and the company would buy the stock from the church. The church receives the proceeds of the sale and you avoid recognizing capital gains. You also get a charitable deduction based on the appraised value of the stock.
4. **Sale of depreciated stock:** Do you have a stock that has gone down in value and it doesn't look like it will be going up anytime soon? Consider selling the stock and give the proceeds as a monetary gift. Not only will you get the charitable deduction, you will also be able to claim a loss on your tax return, subject to limitations.
5. **Life Insurance:** An easy and direct form of planned giving is through a new life insurance policy. You make Trinity the beneficiary and owner of the policy. The premiums are tax-deductible and policies can be paid up within a few years. Do you have an existing life insurance policy? If you transfer the ownership of the policy to the church and make the church the beneficiary, you will receive a charitable deduction in the amount of the cash surrender value at the time of transfer. Any additional premiums paid would be tax deductible.
6. **Charitable Remainder Trust or Charitable Gift Annuity:** Do you have investments but you need an income stream from the dividends or interest to pay your bills? You can set up a charitable remainder trust or a charitable gift annuity. The trust or annuity will pay you until your death with the remainder going to the church after death.
7. **Charitable lead Trusts:** Do you have investments and desire to leave your estate to your heirs? There are charitable lead trusts that can be set up where the first 15 - 20 years the annual payments go to the church, and, afterwards, the remaining funds revert to your heirs.
8. **Your Will:** Do you have investments but you want to make sure you have enough to take care of you through your retirement years? Consider including the church in the provisions of your will.

As Jesus said "Freely you have received; freely give" (Matthew 10:8)

If you want to talk more about these and other charitable giving options, please contact **Gail Fitzgerald at 301-834-7867** or to donate to the Endowment-Sustaining Fund contact the **Community Foundation of Frederick County at 301-695-7660** or **CFO@frederickcountygives.org**.

Children's Ministry ROARS! VBS 2019



We had a wonderful week at ROAR VBS 2019! This year we travelled on a journey from Egypt when the Israelites were enslaved by the Pharaoh through to when they arrived in the Promised Land, learning about how no matter what, "GOD IS GOOD!"

The stats:

Number of children registered: 45 Average number of daily attendance: 35 Number of Returning Children: 17 Number of New Attendees: 23	Number of Volunteers: 43 Number of Adults: 25 Number of Youth: 18 <i>(many of whom attended VBS when they were younger)</i>
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This year's mission supported Operation Christmas Child and we were so thankful that Laura Welker was able to join us all week to tell the children the importance of this mission and how they could help. They each made a box for a child during the week and we raised money to help ship those boxes, \$39.68!

The Children's Ministry team would like to thank all of our participants, volunteers and the congregation for your support of this important outreach. We could not do what we do without you!



(MT=Ministry Team)

AUGUST 2019

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		SUNDAY SCHEDULE 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>		1 6:00 pm Missions MT	2	3
4 <i>Holy Communion</i>	5 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:00 pm Church Council	6	7 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	8 6:00 pm Fellowship & Hospitality MT 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision	9	10
11 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	12 6:30 pm Praise Team	13 8:00 am Men's Bible Study	14 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	15 7:00 pm Stewardship & Finance MT	16	17
18 12:30 pm Church & Society MT	19 6:30 pm Praise Team	20 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Member Care & Nurture MT	21	22 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision	23	24
25	26 11:30 am J.O.Y. Club Senior Luncheon 6:30 pm Praise Team	27 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 6:30 pm Trustees MT	28 1:00 pm Newsletter Collating	29	30	31

AUGUST VOLUNTEERS

Date	Drivers	Lay Readers	Ushers	Greeters
8/4	Bill Etzler 301-798-3469	Magda Morales	8:45 - Wayne Buckingham 11:10 - Larry Boyer, Glenna Green, Pam Lesperance, and Wayne Buckingham	8:45 - Jennie Sue Pearson and John Jones 11:10 - Mack & Jan Tuck
8/11	David Eisentraut 301-371-3534	Christy DeFrance	8:45 - Don Fine 11:10 - Larry Boyer, Dave Romer, and Judy & Michele Pickens	8:45 - Ernell Graham and Sue Rowland 11:10 - Jerry & Gerda Ryan
8/18	Matt Stegle 301-694-2649	Peggy Rowley	8:45 - Jerry Ryan 11:10 - Larry Boyer, Adrian Winpigler, and Doug & Mary Wallick	8:45 - Bill & Bethany Adamo 11:10 - Evelyn Dwimoh & Nellie
8/25	Lars DeSalvio 301-471-7466	Nancy Boyd	8:45 - Larry Smith 11:10 - Larry Boyer, Barb Ellis, McKayla McNamee, and Rachel Kenny	8:45 - Chip & Kathy Jewell 11:10 - Tony & Caryn Dribelbies



Sign up for our
e-NEWSLETTER

We are trying to be better stewards of the church's resources and are offering an electronic version of the monthly newsletter for those interested. If you would like to receive an electronic version instead of a paper copy, please e-mail the church office at tumc@trinityfrederick.org.

NEWSLETTER COLLATING DATES

<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>August 28</i>	<i>1pm</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>September 26</i>	<i>1pm</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>October 29</i>	<i>1pm</i>

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.

Information for the September 2019 Newsletter will be due the second Sunday of August – August 11.



Eliezer: 301-662-2895(work) and 240-285-9623(cell)

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

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



Trinity United Methodist Church
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Yard Sale to Benefit Youth Missions!

Saturday, September 28, 2019 8:00am - 1:00pm



It's that time of year again! Let us help you clean out those closets!

To rent a space, please complete the form below (Note: No selling of food or guns in spaces)
Donations for the sale may be dropped off Friday, September 27 between 6pm and 7:30pm
No donations of clothing or computer equipment please.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Each space will be approximately 15' X 15'. There are a limited number of tables available for rent at \$5 each.

of Spaces _____ x \$25 = \$ _____

of Tables _____ x \$ 5 = \$ _____

Total amount Due:

\$ _____

*Payment must be received
within 48 hours of us receiving
your registration to confirm
your spot*

Questions? Please contact Wendy Huff at yardsale@trinityfrederick.org

Trinity United Methodist Church, 705 West Patrick Street, Frederick, MD 21701

Please mark if you are including your payment by: CASH CHECK # _____ please memo "yard sale"