

He is Risen

Celebrate Resurrection Sunday

From the Pastor's Desk

Beloved, it is a difficult time right now, with challenging new developments coming to us on an hourly basis. Like you, we are watching and waiting and doing our best to care for the vulnerable and act with regard to the common good. When we've done all that we can do, there is still one thing left: to pray.

Today, as we pray, we can take this opportunity to be part of the rebuilding of societal trust by walking in a manner worthy of our calling as disciples of Jesus (*Ephesians 4:1*). We can be the people who provide leadership for the common good (*Philippians 2:3*). We can help people stay informed by providing information that is factual and coming from the organizations charged with keeping us informed (i.e., CDC, World Health Organization, MD Department of Health and Human Services) without creating fear. A perfect example of this is the resource that our own Don Fine wrote on the subject, which is available on our website (trinityfrederick.org).

We are called to lead in the name of Jesus, and to show our love to every person we encounter (*John 3:16; 4:34; 6:38*). We are called to being faithful in what's in front of us, and earning the trust of others for the future in order to live in peace and love (*Mark 9:33-37; John 13:4-5*).



... Pastor's Page continued from page 1

During this time of uncertainty people of faith can help others to trust God, and to rely on God for our future. As the Apostle Paul affirms: "For in Him we live and move and have our being." "We are His offspring." (*Acts 17:28*).

As we seek to be present in our communities, and with our families, showing them love, mercy, compassion, and mercy. We are reminded of the song "*St. Patrick's Breastplate*." This is a prayer for protection. The prayer reflects the medieval custom of knights who placed inscriptions of prayers in their breastplates and then recited them as they rode into battle. So strong was this association that one of the hymn's alternate titles – *Lorica*, Latin for 'breastplate' – came to be used broadly for any prayer for protection.

Thus, let us invoke on our families, our communities, our state, and our country the power of this beautiful prayer:

I bind to myself today

The strong virtue of the invocation of the Trinity: I believe the Trinity in the Unity, The Creator of the universe.

I bind to myself today

The virtue of the incarnation of Christ with His Baptism, The virtue of His crucifixion with His burial, The virtue of His Resurrection with His Ascension, The virtue of His coming on the Judgement Day.

I bind to myself today

God's Power to guide me, God's Might to uphold me, God's wisdom to teach me, God's Eye to watch over me, God's ear to hear me, God's Hand to guide me, God's Way to lie before me, God's Shield to shelter me, God's host to secure me, That I may receive abundant reward. Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ within me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ at my right, Christ at my left, Christ in the fort, Christ in the chariot seat, Christ in the rear deck, Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks to me, Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me.

I bind to myself today

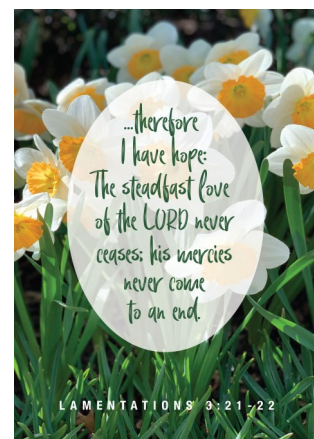
The strong virtue of an invocation of the Trinity, I believe the Trinity in the Unity The Creator of the universe.

Indeed, let us invoke the name of our Lord, the One Whom on this mouth we celebrate His resurrection. Allow yourselves to be enraptured by the power of His resurrection, not only in faith, but also in life. Let us celebrate that through Christ we have conquered death, for if we belong to Christ whether we live or die.

Let us pray that God may have mercy on us, and that God may give us the strength for us to accomplish the tasks God has set before us. Let us pray for each other, let us be there for each other, let us be obedient to God's calling on our lives as we seek to love the way God has loved us.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Eliezer





Trinity Pastoral Counseling Center

April is **National Alcohol Awareness Month**. Alcohol can be viewed as a helpful or harmful, depending on your point of view. In small doses, it can be relaxing and good for the circulatory system. However, there is a wide grey area between casual use, developing a problem, and, later, a dependence or addiction to alcohol.

Abuse is when alcohol or any other substance creates problems in our lives. **Addiction** is a physical withdrawal when not drinking. These go beyond the social drinking that occurs on special occasions.

During this month, it might be a good time to consider how drinking impacts you or, maybe, someone around you. How can you know if it is a problem? While many people may be able to drink socially or casually, alcohol abuse can enter a more slippery slope from acceptable use towards harming oneself and/or others. There can be the problem of denial with abuse or addiction to consider.

Harvard University offers a tool for helping people look at alcohol usage from an abuse perspective.

<https://www.health.harvard.edu/staying-healthy/are-you-drinking-too-much-alcohol>

Let's take good care of ourselves. Respect how different people have different tolerances and responses to alcohol. There is no one-size fits all approach with alcohol. Remember, alcohol can be cunning in how we tend to minimize its impact on our lives and those around us. However, how we use it is our responsibility. If there are concerns, we would be happy to help you with resources to get you started.

Blessings,

Diane Younkins, LCPC

Trinity Pastoral Counseling Center



Dear Trinity Family,

All activities, groups, and meetings HAVE BEEN CANCELLED for the month of April. **We will continue to video record sermons which you will receive via email.**

Trinity will continue to update you via email and on the website. Please email the office at tumc@trinityfrederick.org or check the website at www.trinityrfrederick.org for updates.

You can also contact your group coordinator for information regarding further cancellation or rescheduling. Thank you all for your patience and understanding.

-OFFICE STAFF



Joining in fellowship when we can't meet face to face...

We are working on providing online Bible studies via Zoom and other simple technology. Be on the lookout in your email for more information on how you can participate.

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MAY
17-23

SOUTH CAROLINA

DONATIONS NEEDED

Contact Kay Etzler
301-514-8293 or
etzler11405@gmail.com

Vacation Bible School Help Needed!



We are starting to build our awesome team for this years' Vacation Bible School. There are jobs for all skill levels.

We need group leaders, activity directors, snack coordinators, and more.

We will also need decorators to help out the weeks leading up to VBS. Students who are

6th grade and older can also help and receive volunteers hours for school. If you feel led to help out at our VBS the week of July 13 - 18 or would like more info, please contact Curtis Osborne at 301-662-2895 or children@trinityfrederick.org.

Jack Brubaker would like to say "thank you" for all the prayers following his accident in August and during his recovery process. Jack is still in physical therapy however, he is doing well and grateful for all your prayers.

mother's DAY collection for heartly house

Heartly House serves Frederick County residents who have been impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. Trinity UMC will be collecting donations of needed household items on Sunday, May 3 and 10 to make Mother's Day a little brighter for these families. The items needed are listed below. All donations need to be new and unused and can be placed in the Heartly House box located in the narthex. Thank you!

- Disinfecting wipes
- Gas gift cards
- Grocery store gift cards
- Baby powder
- Diaper deodorized disposal bags
- Children's shampoo/body wash
- Children's toothbrushes/toothpaste
- Feminine hygiene (pads/tampons)
- Crib sheets
- Pillows
- Twin-size sheets
- Women's pajamas
- Women's sweatshirt/pants
- Children's pajamas
- Children's sweatshirt/pants
- Batteries (AAA, AA, C, D, 9v)
- Towels and wash cloths
- Paper plates and cups
- Ziploc bags
- Dishwasher detergent pods
- Kitchen towels
- Mouthwash
- Dish cloths, sponges
- Aluminum foil and plastic wrap
- Toilet paper
- Tissues
- Paper towels
- Coffee – Instant & K-cups
- Tea bags & K-cups

Rethinking Church

By Curtis A. Osborne

Have you ever wondered what the future of the Christian church will look like? Many churches, denominations, pastors, seminaries and theologians have pondered the question over the years and have sought ideas that will ensure that the church will go on forever and stay relevant.

In October of 2019, the Pew Research Center released a new update on America's changing religious landscape. The title of the report was "In U.S., Decline of Christianity Continues at Rapid Pace". That certainly was a headline grabber and caused increased worry and consternation in the Christian church. According to the survey, in 2019, 65% of American adults described themselves as Christian, down from 77% just a decade ago in 2009. Those who have no religious identity such as atheists, agnostics or "nones" is now at 26%. Church attendance has dropped as well, going from 52% who regularly attended in 2009, now down to 45%. In short, attendance is lagging, and most churches are not growing. Now that is not true for all churches.

There are a myriad of complex reasons why this decline has occurred, though many church watchers tend to point their fingers at the millennials or nones, who feel that the traditional church does not inspire them spiritually and is too judgmental. They want a more open, mission oriented, less tradition focused church. Their departure from church is certainly one reason for the decline in church attendance but there are other cultural reasons at play as well.

Though the numbers may paint a dire picture, the future of the church is far from bleak. There are many outstanding Christians in ministry that are doing things to shake up the traditional church model and present exciting plans for the church future and survival. Many churches and denominations have started the extraordinary step of rethinking how they do church and adapting to the times. They won't water down the scriptural message, but they change how the message is delivered.

This rethinking or reimagining of church is happening in different ways. Church has become a verb to them and not a noun. Some churches look internally and try to grow spiritually from the inside out, which in turn will help the churches grow and increase discipleship. Programs such as the *Healthy Church Initiative*, the *Vital Church Initiative*, the *Transforming Church Initiative* and the *Organic Growth Plan* are about churches getting healthier, larger and more spiritual. Author Kay Kotan has a book called "Gear Up! Nine Essential Processes for the Optimized Church", that many pastors are using to make important God centered decisions on changing their churches. Many denominations are using the book with much success.

Another way of reimagining church is by looking deeper into redesigning the contemporary church due to cultural shifts. They are redefining what church is. They start with the precept that church is more than a building. Church is more than a sermon. Church is more than just music. To them, church is about relationships and community. Church is about going outside the walls and reaching people where they are in their community: it is not about internal focus and creating more programs. Church is about going out into the community and creating disciples for Christ. Pastor James Emory White addresses this phenomenon in a book called "Rethinking Church: A challenge to Creative Redesign in an Age of Transition". To him, church is not about becoming part of the culture, but by leading it, not letting the culture lead the church. He says that churches need to be intentional about faith development and more missional in order to meet the new realities.

Francis Chan gave up his large San Francisco church when he realized that perhaps he was not doing church the way that God intended. He developed his lay leaders and then sent them out into the neighborhoods to start home churches, and after a year, new lay leaders will emerge, leave, move into other communities, and start new home churches. Some missional churches will have their leadership team move into a blighted area, become a part of the community, and have home churches and minister to the marginalized, poor, drug addicted and those experiencing poverty.

Others are following the Fresh Expressions model, which came out of the Church of England. This model is where you take church to the people, particularly those who left church, or those who were not Christians. All kinds of new churches have been created that might be considered niche, since they are nontraditional.

Church in the park, coffee shop church, dinner church, RV church, church in nature, laundromat church, dinner church, virtual on-line church and pub church are all fresh expressions of this new type of church experience. Having church service on a Tuesday night or some other innovations. Having a conversational church where the pastor teaches interactively to the congregation where they can ask questions. Having Sunday Jazz church and even performing arts churches where the message is delivered through plays, drama, spoken work, interpretive dancing and music instead of by traditional sermons. These are all new imaginative ways that pastors are trying to connect to the congregation in different ways, forming new communities, creating disciples, developing a sense of family and help people grow deeper in their Christian faith.

Some of these ideas are controversial and can be seen in a negative light by traditionalists, but this is the way that churches are going. The modern-day institutional church is splintering in many directions, but the original Christian church was a movement and not an institution. It has moved away from being a movement, but institutions have foundations that movements don't have. So, what exactly is church and where do you see it in the future?



APRIL Operation Christmas Child Collections

Stuffed Animals

Please continue to collect and hold your donations until May or further notice



CHRISTIANS
Caring for each other



**American
Red Cross
Blood
Drive**

**SAVE THE DATE!
SAVE A LIFE!
Friday, May 29**

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴ Rejoice^[a] in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.^[b] ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

NEWSLETTER COLLATING DATES

Monday	April 27	1pm
Tuesday	May 26	1pm
Thursday	June 25	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.

Information for the May 2020 newsletter will be due the second Sunday of April— April 12.



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

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.





May the grace and peace of our Lord be with you. Please take a moment and read the following appeal for help. Even though it is a bit lengthy it is important as we work for the common good. Having this in mind, Trinity has become aware of several organizations needing not only financial assistance, but also assistance with obtaining items needed to fight the coronavirus. We are asking that you consider assisting in this endeavor.

In order to avoid each of us going out into the public, Kay Etzler has agreed to do the shopping and delivery, so monetary donations are requested in order to cover the items needed. Checks may be sent to the church office or you may donate through the church's electronic system with a note that designates your donation for this purpose. Or you could, of course, donate directly to an organization(s). Please be sure to mark the memo field that it's a donation to the Coronavirus Community Fund.

Also, if you've any of the needed items in your closets or garage and are not using them (especially the urgent items listed below), please donate them. Or if you are out shopping for your family, please think about buying a bit extra for those in need. Kay (301-514-8293, etzler11405@gmail.com) would be happy to make arrangements to pick up any donations and get them to the appropriate organization.

Here are the items various organizations are seeking.

Religious Coalition - Family Shelter Program

Pouched rice (microwaveable)

Canned beans

Canned meat

Canned fruit

Canned veggies

Canned soup

Powered milk

Cereal

Oatmeal

Peanut butter

Honey/jam

Instant coffee/tea

Nuts such as mixed nuts

Packaged microwaveable meals

Snack bars, dried fruit granola bars

Children liquid tylenol

Adult tylenol

Frederick Rescue Mission - Plastic, cardboard, or styrofoam meal containers
(We're sending the church's supply.)

Housing Authority

Diapers

Wipes

Baby formula

Computers for kids to do homework

Grocery store gift cards

Urgent Items Needed by all organizations

Masks

Surgical gloves

Hand sanitizer

Clorox wipes

Toilet paper

These are challenging times but we know that God is with us, and that this shall also pass. Our faith in the living God, and God's love for us will guide us through it all. Your love and support for our community is an expression of our love for God and one another.

Thank you for anything you could do to help in these uncertain times.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Eliezer

The Rev. Dr. Eliezer Valentín-Castañón, Senior Pastor

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

301-662-2895
tumc@trinityfrederick.org
www.trinityfrederick.org

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U.S. Postage Paid
Frederick, MD 21701
Permit #12

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Yard Sale to Benefit Youth Missions!

Saturday, May 9, 2020 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, May 17 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 = \$ _____

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"