



Cloverleaf

Trinity United Methodist Church

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From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Trinity family,

In the last few weeks I have been reading Ta-Nehisi Coates' book *Between the World and Me*. This book is a description of someone who experienced what it means to be an American while black. Not long ago, in response to the movement that has sprung forth in support for racial justice in our country, Mr. Coates was asked by Stephen Colbert what did he see in the country right now? Some years before, Coates' response was pessimistic. He was asked if he had hope for America to which he answered with a resounding no. He said, "But I'm not the person you should go to for that. You should go to your pastor; your pastor provides you hope."

At a more recent interview on the Ezra Kline Podcast, Coates' answer was different. The question was: "What does he see right now, as he looks out at the country?" His response was: "I can't believe I'm gonna say this, but I see hope. I see progress right now."

The question of whether this moment of racial reckoning is somehow different than the countless others in our nation's history is on many people's minds. The responses fall somewhere along the spectrum represented by Coates's two very different answers. Never before have so many non-Black people publicly advocated for the well-being of Black people... "this moment feels singular, unique in its possibility for real and lasting change" wrote Drew G.I. Hart in his book about Christianity and race: *Trouble I've Seen*.

Others are less optimistic. After all, there have been so many other moments latent with possibility, so many halting steps toward justice met by fierce resistance from those determined to defend white privilege even when they do not even know what it is that they are defending. This is what writer James Baldwin spoke about regarding our efforts, as a society, to maintain the status quo: “I must honestly confess that I go through moments of disappointment when I have to recognize that there aren’t enough white persons in our country who are willing to cherish democratic principles over privilege.” Indeed, when people are willing to defend their privilege above the lives of our black and brown brothers and sisters, there is a problem. When the lives of black and brown people are spent at the hands of those who are supposed to protect them, there is something wrong with our social contract.

But what if Ta-Nehisi Coates is right, not about what these days will lead to but about the possibilities they present to us? What would we need to do now to move from possibility to reality?

I ask these questions as a pastor, and a follower of Jesus. Over the centuries white Christians have played the prominent role for creating and sustaining the racial hierarchy which continues to wreak such terrifying havoc today. I think of white Christians who articulated a theology which justified land theft and the genocide of Native Americans, white people who were willing to preach a gospel that legitimized slavery, organized churches which excluded African Americans (included our Methodist Church). A process that was sanctioned in a series of Roman Catholic decrees (i.e., the Doctrine of Discovery, 1493), which codified white supremacy and sanctioned genocide, rape and abuse against African and Native peoples.

These same codes worked to sustained white people’s opposition to movements for voter enfranchisement and the integration of schools (as we have seen throughout the twentieth century). Christians who stand proudly for immigration policies that seeks to maintain people outside because they are not like us (as the case with Pat Buchanan’s book “State of Emergency: The Third World Invasion and Conquest of America”), regardless of the scriptures’ mandate to pursue justice for the oppressed and offer hospitality to the marginalized.

However, the Gospel we have received, the Gospel we have heard offers us a different vision of the world. We have been given a different vision of the social order that God desires in the book of Revelation: “After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, *from every nation, tribe, people and language*, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.” (7:9). This is the people of God, people from every corner of the world whom God has declared God’s people. In this count you and I are included, no exceptions, no distinctions, we are the people of God for God is calling us all to be part of God’s Household.

If you would like to continue with this conversation, please ***join me on a 4 week study on race and what the Bible has to say about it. This study will take place during the month of September and I am certain that you will not leave this study the same way you came in.*** I believe that as we explore the scripture we will discover that God is calling us to genuine solidarity with our sisters and brothers of color.

I think that Ta-Nehisi Coates was right when he said that people should go to their pastors for hope. But true Christian hope cannot hide us from us the risky possibility of this moment we are living in. It should disturb us rather than soothe our conscience. Our hope must be marked by a courage which compels us to stand up amid apathy and violence and be counted among those who disturb our world’s false sense of peace. “Since we have such a hope,” writes the apostle Paul, “we are very bold.” (2 Cor 3:12). As followers of Jesus we speak of God’s possibilities for we are “God’s handiwork, created in the Messiah Jesus **to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do**” (Eph. 2:10).

I pray you can join me. Your Servant in Christ, Pastor Eliezer

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Trinity Re-Entering Well Task Force

We want to gather, meet, socialize and worship together. We yearn to live out our missional calling. We are concerned for the social, emotional and spiritual needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ, yet we know it is vitality important for us to stay vigilant and provide protection against COVID-19 and to support the boarder effort to contain COVID-19.

To that end our pastors, staff, and representatives from various ministry teams of the church, make up the recently formed Trinity Re- Entering Well Task Force (TRWTF).

The purpose of the *Re-Entering Well Task Force* is to plan for a **phased in re-opening** of Trinity's campus and provide clear guidance to the congregation, staff, and community as to expectations and changes to worship and other activities, in order to return as safely as possible to in-person gatherings at Trinity United Methodist Church.

Using the best information available from trusted medical and infectious disease personnel, local government mandates and the Baltimore -Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church (BWCUMC) guidelines, the TRWTF will consider three things to determine how and when to re-enter the church building for in-person gatherings (taken from "Guidelines for RE-entering Well," BWCUMC):

For the health and safety of persons who will attend gatherings, the TRWTF must address the following questions:

- **WHAT?** We will consider the availability of required supplies, such as masks and hand sanitizer, and how we will adhere to all CDC and local health guidelines to mitigate risk.
- **WHO?** We will consider the percentage of congregants who are vulnerable to the virus, and take into account the high degree of discipline that will be necessary in order for the pastors and congregation to be vigilant about adhering to guidelines and helping others do the same.
- **WHERE?** We will consider the size and configuration of our space(s) including parking lots, foyers, sanctuary, bathrooms, classrooms, etc. and what that means in terms of meeting health guidelines.

For a complete explanation of the BWCUMC guidelines please visit www.bwcumc.org

In the words of Bishop LaTrelle Easterling:

"We will privilege lives over every other consideration. We will err on the side of safety rather than expediency and remember that this is a fluid situation requiring attentive and adaptive responses."

If you have questions or concerns you are welcome to contact:

Laura Welker, 301 788-0048 or Don Hott, 301 325-5354

Dear Trinity family,

We have joined with Crossed Bridges, other churches in the county, the Sheriff's Department, Frederick County Health Department, and other community organizations in the observance of **National Recovery Month** which takes place during the month of September. We want to show that Frederick County supports those in active addiction and recovery, and their loved ones; offers hope and resources, and invests in the future of its youth through prevention education. During this month we will share information about activities and ways you can support this effort in the community.

For more information on Frederick County Goes Purple and ways you can get involved, visit www.FrederickCountyGoesPurple.com or send an email to FrederickCountyGoesPurple@gmail.com.

During September let us Go Purple in support of this community effort.

- Pastor Eliezer

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OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

...Our "packing party" will look different this year...

Whether you are packing your own boxes or donating items to be used at our Trinity packing "party", here are some gift ideas for you to consider:

A wow item: doll, soccer ball with pump, stuffed animal, an outfit of clothing

Hygiene items: soap and washcloth, toothbrush, comb, brush

Clothing and accessories: shirt, pants, socks, flip flops, hat, sunglasses, scarf, mittens

Toys: doll, car/truck/boat, puzzle, ball, slinky, etch-a-sketch, finger puppets, yoyo, blocks, play dough, crayons, coloring book, game

School supplies: pens, pencils, sharpener, eraser, notebook, glue stick (no liquid), markers, solar calculator

Other: flashlight with batteries, hair accessories, bandana, harmonica, woodwind recorder

If you have donations, we have people willing to come by your home and pick them up. If you prefer, you can make a monetary donation (clearly marked for OCC) that will go towards purchasing needed items in bulk. Our "packing party" will look different this year as we carefully plan safe ways to fill the shoeboxes with your donated items and send them to children all over the world.

For more information, questions,
or to have donated items picked up,
please call Laura Welker at 301 788-0048



WE CARE - *Frederick County supports those who struggle with addiction and their loved ones.*

We care for those who are in active addiction and people in recovery.

We care for the families, friends, and communities that are affected by addiction.

We support our first responders and providers who witness the realities of addiction every day.

HOPE/HELP IS HERE - *The Frederick County community offers resources and hope.*

Treatment is effective. <https://www.frederickcountygoespurple.com/treatment>

People recover. <https://www.frederickcountygoespurple.com/recovery>

Narcan saves lives. Learn how you can get trained in overdose response.
<https://bha.health.maryland.gov/NALOXONE/Pages/Home.aspx>

LET'S TALK - *We invest in the youth of Frederick County through prevention education.*

Addiction changes the brain. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v6rEiMq7mV8>

Prevention works. Take advantage of teachable moments. Find out how to talk to youth about substance use no matter their age. <https://www.frederickcountygoespurple.com/prevention>
<https://drugfree.org/prevention-and-taking-action-early/>

Prevent substance misuse. Lock up prescriptions and dispose of unused medicine.
<https://health.frederickcountymd.gov/431/How-Do-I-Dispose-of-Prescription-Drugs>



Praise and Worship

Roses are Red, Violets are Blue
Trinity Music and Arts Team is Waiting on YOU!

Share a song or a dance
All we have to do is record it in advance.

For more information,
Contact Angela Spencer, I am the one

My email address is
angelahspencer@gmail.com





*"But just as you excel
in everything ...
in faith, in speech,
in knowledge, in complete
earnestness and in your
love for us ...
see that you also excel
in this grace of giving"*

2 Corinthians 8:7



Grow Your Faith...*(Did you know you can CALL in to a Zoom class. It can be that easy!)*

Please note that all studies, classes, and learning opportunities are currently happening via Zoom. Call the church office at 301 662 2895 if we can help you get "Zooming."

STUDY ON RACE *with Pastor Eliezer*

4 Week Study Starting Wed., Sept. 2 - 23 at 7:30 pm

Come be part of this study on race and what the Bible has to say about it.

Please feel free to familiarize yourself with the following resources:

Dismantling Racism: The Continuing Challenge to White America by Joseph Barndt

White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism by Robin DiAngelo. Forward by Michael Eric Dyson

Uprooting Racism: How White People Can Work for Racial Justice by Paul Kivel

THE 23 PSALM - *Open Door Grow Time Class*

6 Week Study Starting Sept. 6 meets via Zoom on Sunday Evenings at 7pm

Many people are familiar with Psalm 23. But because we all know it, we often breeze through the psalm without slowing down long enough to rest in the assurance it offers. In this 6-part series on Psalm 23, pastor Matt Chandler introduces us to the great shepherd, the Lord, who promises to provide for every need of his flock. Though only six verses long, this psalm teaches us profound truths about our loving and protective God. By studying Psalm 23, we'll encounter a life-transforming question: Do you trust the Lord to care for your needs?

ACM 2020 Study - Excel in the Grace of Giving

3 Week Study Sept. 21-Oct. 4 meets via Zoom on Monday Evenings at 7pm

Explore how, as we grow as disciples, as we understand more and more what God has done for us in Christ, as we see that Jesus gave his very life, we are prompted by the Holy Spirit to respond cheerfully by sharing the resources that God has given us. When God's people give faithfully from willing and loving hearts, God is honored, and we excel in the grace of giving.

CHRISTIAN MATURITY

Wanda & Jasmine Osborne

"If you believe in the same things today as you did 20 or 30 years ago, you have not grown as a Christian."

- Anonymous Grow Time Class Member

"Faith is a journey not just an experience...It can be a winding road full of peaks and valleys..."

- Bishop T. D. Jakes

BIBLE VERSE:

⁵ For this very reason, you must make every effort to support your faith with goodness, and goodness with knowledge, ⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with endurance, and endurance with godliness, ⁷ and godliness with mutual affection, and mutual affection with love. ⁸ *For if these things are yours and are increasing among you, they keep you from being ineffective and unfruitful* in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ ...¹¹ For in this way, entry into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly provided for you. *2 Peter 1: 5-11 NRSV*

Since the fall of 2017, my family and I have had the privilege of facilitating the Contemporary Issues Grow Time class which has morphed into a Journey of Faith class. As followers of Jesus, each of us is on our own individual path to continue the ministry of Jesus and to enter the eternal kingdom. Over the course of our lives, we have experiences which shape us in many ways. So, it follows that for a Christian, as we go through our individual journey, our experiences should help us to grow in our faith.

Along the way, God may test us, challenge us, or even push us, but, when we are tested, we must be ready. Ask yourself, do you recall a time when you believed that God was testing you? How did you do? What did you do? Did you listen to God or did you go along with your own will? If God were to give you those same tests again today, would the result be the same or would your response be different due to your growth as a Christian?

This brings us to the question: how do we continue to grow as Christians? First, we must understand and accept that this is a life-long journey. We often think that church is the first and last step, but, it is only a small part of the experience. As the Bible quote indicates, we should always strive to increase our knowledge. This requires Christians to read the Bible, outside of church, and to read other Christian books. Attending classes or seminars if one is able, can provide more opportunities for Christians to participate in fellowship, and to continue in their spiritual growth. Another component involves prayer and meditation. Prayer is mentioned throughout the Bible and it is essential for Christian growth. Some believe that a good prayer life is the most neglected aspect of our journey.

Lastly, have you acted on your faith? In *James 2:14-17*, the Bible tells us that faith without works is dead. In verse 18, we are told that **"...I by my works will show you my faith."** Together, all of these actions or "experiences" will shape us as Christians and as we continue our path we will grow. However, we must be diligent in these efforts, we must persevere, for if we stop, we stunt our growth in the faith. Each step of our journey should bring us closer to God. Our growth manifests itself in many ways such as sharing our faith with others, practicing grace, and showing forgiveness. We begin to adopt the mindset of Christ. Ultimately, this should lead us to the greatest and first commandment from *Matthew 22:37*, **"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."** The first, Jesus shows us, makes no sense without the second part in verse 39: **"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."**

Remember, a pastor is not solely responsible for one's spiritual growth, we have to take personal responsibility for our journey. Faith is not just an experience, it is a journey.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE VERSES: Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 22:35-40; Ephesians 4:15-16; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4; James 1:22; James 2: 14-18.

**TRINITY PASTORAL
COUNSELING CENTER**


Two mental health awareness topics take place in September: **suicide prevention and addiction recovery**. Both are about encouraging life, when life seems overwhelming. With the stress of the pandemic and economic challenges for many people, *suicides and addiction rates are climbing*.

The heavier topic of suicide is crucial to bring to light. Part of the campaign this year is **to Be the One to Ask**. Going to the hashtag **#BeThe1To** provides information on starting a conversation with someone you may be concerned about. Research shows that reaching out and asking how someone who is thinking about suicide provides connection and relief and that their thoughts of suicide are reduced. The ribbon at the beginning of the article is a part of this project.

Crisis Hotlines

- 1-800-273-8255 (TALK) National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
- 211 Frederick County & Western Maryland Help Line (crisis and resource line)
- Text NAMI to 741741 in a crisis anywhere in the US.

During September, *we also celebrate people in recovery*. We often understand this to mean addiction, but this includes mental health, as well as, addiction recovery. Dual diagnosis is a term used when someone has both diseases – addiction and mental illness. For all those who are in recovery and taking their mental illness seriously, congratulations! This can be hard work, but your life is worth it. For those thinking about getting better and needing help, now is a good time to take steps to get healthier.

As Trinity Pastoral Counseling Center celebrates the 35 years of ministry in the community, we would also like to *recognize Pam Hewetson for her 30 years of service*, most of this time as the director of the center. Her quiet, patient, attentive approach has served the center's staff, clients, and community well. She continues to work as a pastoral counselor at the center and is a steady force for modeling God's love in the world. Thank you, Pam!

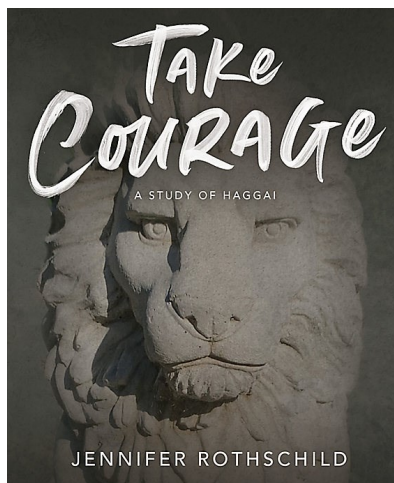
Blessings to all,
Diane Younkins, LCPC, NCC
Director and Pastoral Counselor



Women's Bible study starting Wed., Sept. 9.
7 weeks Mornings at 9:30am and Evenings at a
NEW TIME...6pm

Are you tired of trying to come up with enough courage to combat today's many fears? YOU DON'T HAVE TO!!!

Sometimes the landscapes of our lives feel wrecked, with our hope and purpose in shambles. We too get distracted and discouraged. However, God's presence and **promises give us courage** to press on and trust Him with our story.



In this 7-session study on the Book of Haggai, learn to walk confidently in your calling, stay motivated despite opposition, and courageously invest your life in God's purposes, trusting Him for results you may never see in this lifetime.



Joy Club

9/28/20
Red Lobster

10/26/20
Modern Asia

12/7/20
Dutch's Daughter



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH

- ⇒ Four out of five people who use heroin started with recreational use of prescription painkillers. (NIDA)
- ⇒ Sixty-five percent of people misusing prescription painkillers get them from friends or family. (DEA)
- ⇒ Prescription painkillers are killing more people than car accidents and homicides combined. (CDC)
- ⇒ About 75 percent of teens say they can easily get prescription painkillers from a parent's medicine cabinet. (Partnership for Drug-Free America)
- ⇒ Alcohol continues to be a primary concern in Frederick as well as opioid/heroin use. (Frederick Community Health Needs Assessment.)

Go to <https://www.frederickcountygoespurple.com/>
for more information about this movement.

