



Cloverleaf

Trinity United Methodist Church

November 2020

Volume 32 ♦ Number 11



Thanksgiving

CELEBRATE & BE THANKFUL

Our Trinity Family,

The Fall season is now upon us. It's getting colder and the leaves are beginning to change from green to red, orange, yellow and brown before falling to the ground. The days become shorter because of less sunlight and we are just starting to get use to the time adjustment from setting our clocks back an hour. We have packed up the shorts and tank tops and unpacked our sweaters and turtlenecks. Our AC units have finally chilled out as our furnaces get fired up! Some animals are in transition to migrate to warmer places to try and find the best ecological conditions and habitats for feeding, breeding and raising their young. While other animals like the squirrel will gather up as many nuts as possible to ensure that there is a large enough food supply to last them through the winter. After gathering hundreds or thousands of nuts, the first problem the squirrel runs into is where to put their entire food supply.

So they start to hide these nuts in many different places, but this creates a second problem which is, trying to remember where the food supply is stored when it gets colder and the bad weather comes?



But God has done something extraordinary to the squirrel to help them remember where the food supply exist. God increases the dimension of their brain during the Fall season by 15% in size, specifically the hippocampus, which is the memory and spatial organization area of the brain. This increase helps the squirrel to remember exactly where they scattered their stored up food supply. That's Nuts!!

The important thing is this – God will provide!! Whether you migrate to a different place because life has become too turbulent or if you stay in your location and weather the storm. *“Our God will supply all of our needs according to God’s riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”* (Philippians 4:19)

This does not mean that we will receive all of the materialistic things that our heart desires. God differentiates between our specific needs and our desired wants because God knows that where our treasure is, there our heart will be also (Matthew 6:21). God is concerned with every part of us whether it’s our mindset, our body, spirit and soul. This makes the ways that God provides for us even more incredible because God’s blessings go far beyond anything that we can ever think of or imagine. God wants us to understand that God’s goodness, guidance and care for us are all trustworthy because God is able to do more for us than we could ever achieve on our own. Jesus told the disciples not to worry about food or clothing because the Father knows our every need. In the (23rd) Psalm of David, the first verse states, *“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.”* We who have the shepherd as our Lord can truly say that we are lacking nothing. *“I once was young, and now I’m old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging for bread.”* (Psalm 37:25) In the Lord’s Prayer, Jesus was teaching his disciples to ask God for provision and each time that we pray this prayer our dependence on God is affirmed when we say, *“Give us this day our daily bread.”* God desires a covenant relationship with us and this requires us to trust God to meet our daily requirements which include food, clothing and the physical needs of life. But God goes even deeper by providing needs for our soul, our spirit and our inner man. There is peace and comfort in knowing that God loves us so much that we are blessed in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus, and no matter what physical state we find ourselves in, we can always be content that the Lord will see us through. *“For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.”* (Psalm 84:11) God’s providing extends toward the ongoing relationship to all of God’s creation who is heavily dependent on God for everything. The omnipresence of God allows God to provide not just for the birds that fly south for the winter, or the squirrels who stay and store up food, but to all of the animals on the land, in the sea and all over the earth, but especially the ones who were created in God’s image – *“The Children of God!!!”* During this Thanksgiving season, let us be Thankful for all of the things that are watched over by our loving and caring God in the provision that God has for us. God is our Jehovah-Jireh and we can be sure that the Lord will provide!!

Peace, Blessings & Grace
Through Jesus Christ Our Lord
Pastor Mark



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Opportunities for charitable giving.

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.**



Operation Christmas Child

Shoebox Packing Amid the Covid-19 Pandemic

Pick your time & mark your calendars...
Nov. 6 3pm-8pm & Nov. 7 12pm-8:30pm

We will be packing shoeboxes in the MPR on November 6th from 3:00 – 9:00 and November 7th from 12:00 – 8:30.

**To sign up for a shoebox packing time slot
 call Kay Etzler at 301 514-8293**

In order to keep everyone safe, we are asking that you *call for a time slot so we can limit the number of packers at one time.*

Protocols in Place for Your Safety!!

- Masks and gloves will be worn at all times.
- Social distancing will be observed.
- A limit of seven per group at one time.
- Time slots are for 1 hour with 15 minutes in between each session to allow for sanitizing after each group.

CHRISTIAN MATURITY

by Wanda Osborne

“Our behavior needs to be consistent with our beliefs.”

-Anonymous Grow Time Class Member

Bible Verses:

1 John 3:18

Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

James 3:8-10

“...but no one can tame the tongue – a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so.

As I reflect on this quote, it reminds me of how easy it is to profess our love for the Lord and speak of our faith. We attend church, pray and read the bible. But despite these actions, Christians all too often, leave the church and go into the world and say things that are not consistent with being a Christian or act in ways that are not consistent with being a Christian. In my last article, I spoke of God’s unconditional love but man’s conditional love.

Many Christians sit in church on Sunday, praising the Lord, singing songs of praise and shouting “Amen” to the pastor’s words during a sermon. Yet, the next day sometimes we forget what we just heard. We forget the song of praise that we just sang about. We talk of love and helping others and we go out into the world and do the opposite. I often hear non-Christians refer to us as hypocrites or as my father would say, we speak “out of both sides of our mouth.”

We profess our love of the Lord and say that God comes first, but too often, many Christians allow so many other things to come before God. We put politics, entertainment, sports, etc. before all things God. People want to miss church on Sunday because they don’t want to miss the football game on television. In some areas, sports are considered a religion. In other areas, politics are treated as a religion. Yet somehow, individuals that idolize athletes, entertainers and politicians still proclaim themselves to be followers of Jesus despite their idol worship.

As a young child, I remember spending summers with my grandparents where we spent most of Sunday involved in church activities. Today, many Christians don’t have time to get involved with church activities or serving God. There are so many things “of the world” that are seeking our attention as Christians. If we do not stay in the Word, we can become distracted and lose focus on what is our main priority. I’m not pretending that this is easy, but it requires commitment to our faith, because we have challenges to our ability to be faithful.

God is always faithful to us but we do not consistently show the same commitment to God.

From 2 Corinthians we are called to be kingdom ambassadors and we must be engaged in this role. This requires us to be "grounded in ethical and moral judgement" because we are constantly facing difficult situations. We must rely on God's spirit to guide our actions. If we are truly followers of Jesus, then we are required to act and speak in ways that are consistent with this belief.

We must ask ourselves, daily, are our words and actions consistent with our beliefs? How can we overcome this inconsistency? As I mentioned previously, we must stay in the Word. This can be accomplished through a strong prayer life, reading the bible daily, attending church, serving in the church or in the community or helping others. But this must be done consistently. Remember from James 2:18, "...and I by my works will show you my faith." As you leave church on Sunday, how will you show your faith and show that your words and actions are consistent with your beliefs as a Christian, a follower of Jesus? How will you live this out during the week and not just on Sunday?

Additional bible verses:

James 1:22; Matthew 5:44-48; 2 Corinthians 5:11-21; Deuteronomy 6:4; Colossians 3:15-17
Matthew 22:37-40; 1 John 4:7-21

Community Living Christmas

Community Living is a *Frederick nonprofit organization* that supports people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities. Over the years Trinity has developed a strong relationship with the organization and its residents by providing space for training, hosting a Spring and Christmas Party each year, and doing seasonal yard work at one of the residential homes.

Traditionally, this is the time of year that the Missions Team begins planning the Community Living Christmas Party. We put up the Holiday Hope Tree, and our generous church family provides a gift for each of the residents.

Because of the pandemic, this will be the *first time in 21 years that we **will not be** hosting our Community Living Christmas Party.* But we would **still like to remember our friends this Christmas by delivering a gift basket to each of the 26 homes.**

If you would like to help us make this happen, please consider making a contribution towards the cost of the baskets. Donations can be sent to the office **by December 6**, clearly marked for "Community Living Christmas Gift".

If you have questions contact Laura Welker, 301 788-0048.



Youth Fall Calendar

Are you ready to fan the flames?

November

- 1 Sunday, 6:30- 8:00pm Youth Group LOL
All Saints & Sinners
- 8 Sunday, 9:00 - 11:30am Youth Sunday
(No LOL)
- 15 NO LOL
- 22 Sunday, 6:30-8:00pm Youth Group LOL
Thanksgiving Shopping
- 29 Sunday, 6:30-8:00pm Youth Group LOL
Advent: Hope is Coming

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

Isaiah 9:3



They *rejoice* before you
as with *joy* at the
harvest.

Nov. 25

Watch Online

More details to come...

*Worship and
give thanks to
the Lord, for He
is good and His
blessings are
plentiful.*



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

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."

HOLINESS - Grow Time Class - Starting Wed., Oct. 28 - Nov. 18 4 Week Study via Zoom on Wed. Evenings at 7:30pm led by Pastor Eliezer

"John Wesley: Holiness of Heart and Life" is a four weeks study on John Wesley's major theological themes. Mr. Wesley sought to renew the Church of England and transform the world by having Christians take seriously that they were called to live holy lives. He stressed that every Christian should be sanctified, which is the way he described the work of the Holy Spirit to free our lives from sin, and into newness of life. Accordingly, Mr. Wesley sought to discover modes of life — holiness — which would send the disciples to the world in order to transform it in the name of Jesus.

Email Pastor Eliezer at seniorpastor@trinityfrederick.org to participate.

Talking Points: THE PERFECT BLEND OF POLITICS & RELIGION *WITH ANDY STANLEY - Grow Time Open Door Class - October 25, November 1 and November 8 - Sunday Evenings via Zoom at 7pm*

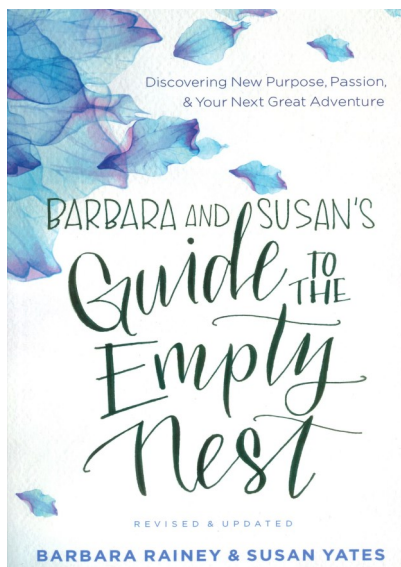
Part 1 What Is Jesus' Take on Politics? Your favorite candidate will win or lose based on how our country votes this November. However, the church will win or lose based on our behavior between now and then.

Part 2 How Christians Should Approach Politics Our political views are shaped by a number of variables: our backgrounds, education, and personal experiences to name a few. It's easy to feel like our view is the right one, but the person beside you is more precious to God than your political view.

Part 3 What Is The Role of the Church in Politics? The unity and diversity of the early church shocked and intrigued the ancient world. Ours should as well.

Men's Bible Study

**Ongoing via Zoom
Tuesday mornings
at 8:30am**



Trinity Women's Ministry is wondering...

Do you know anyone with an Empty Nest?

Trinity Women's Ministry has a gift we would to mail to anyone you know who is working through the complicated adjustment process that comes when the proverbial nest is empty. If you know some one for whom this would be a blessings, please contact Heather in the office at 301.662.2895.

A Part of
Trinity Women's Ministry...

**WATCH FOR NEW STUDY
START DATES**

women's
bible study
growing deeper, together

Wed. at 9:30am & 6pm

TRINITY PASTORAL
COUNSELING CENTER

November is National Career Development Month, Week (16-20) and Day (18). Work is considered a core part of our identity and how we navigate the world. During this time of great change, work levels have increased for some, decreased for others, and for everyone – whether it is paid work, volunteer tasks or family responsibilities to be done, life has changed. Moving from the shock of the initial changes from the pandemic to a more chronic/muddling along as this continues to shift and move, it is important to see what you have control of (yourself) and what you don't (others). Then, focus on how you can be with your experience of work and a more balanced life when things might not feel so balanced.

Things you can do to make you feel better

1. Accept that life is different now.
2. Expect less from yourself as more energy is expended managing your current situation; allow that you may need more energy to focus on tasks at hand.
3. Recognize the different aspects of grief - denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance, and allow time to process those feelings.
4. Look for activities, new and old, that fulfill you.
5. Focus on maintaining and strengthening important relationships.
6. Build regular practices into your life that promote resilience such as better sleep, good nutrition, exercise, meditation/prayer, self-compassion and saying no while being more selective about saying yes.

(Based on Sept and Oct 2020 Maryland Career Development Association newsletters)

Finally, if you are needing assistance with work, the **Frederick County Workforce Development Center** is a great place for help. For more information, go to www.frederickworks.com or call 301-600-2255. If you would like to sign up for their texts, text "FrederickJobs" to 33222.

As we express our thankfulness this month, TPCC is grateful for the 35 years of service the church has supported this ministry.

Blessings,
Diane Younkins
Director and Pastoral Counselor



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 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 December 2020 newsletter will be due the second Sunday of November– November 8.



Thank you for your service!

**VETERANS
DAY**

Wednesday, Nov. 11



Before you go to bed on Saturday, **October 31**, remember to "fall back" by setting your clocks back one hour. Enjoy your extra hour of sleep!

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



**Worship
on
Sunday
mornings
at 10am**

*Audio available
on campus at
90.7am*