



Cloverleaf

Trinity United Methodist Church

October 2020

Volume 32 ♦ Number 10

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

Luke 6:38

When we give gifts to those whom we love, we give without expecting any gifts in return or rewards for our generosity. Parents, for example, are willing and eager to give to their children. Love motivates them to give. As great as the love earthly parents have for their children, it cannot begin to compare with the love God has for his children. In spite of our sinful ways, God keeps on loving us and providing for us.

Through faith, we respond to God’s love and generosity to us by giving to others, his church, and Christian causes. Giving expresses our gratitude to God for all he has done and continues to do for us. Motivated by love, we don’t need to be urged to give, nor do we expect to be rewarded for giving. God, in God’s sovereignty, however has chosen to bless us even more when we give to faithfully and generously. This truth is underscored by God who said, *“Bring the whole tithe . . . and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of Heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have enough room for it”* (Malachi 3:10).

As we respond to God’s love for us by giving back part of what God’s given us, God reacts by giving us even more. *“Give, and it will be given to you.”*

Giving primarily to receive God's blessings is not a God-pleasing motive. Obviously, giving for the purpose of getting is very self-serving and self-centered. Knowing that God will bless us spiritually and may even bless us materially can be an encouragement for us to give, but it should never be our primary motive for giving. Jesus said, *"Freely you have received, freely give"* (Matthew 10:8). To those who bring to the Lord their first fruits, God promises to pour out an abundance of blessings.

God gives so that, as we receive, we can give. We give gladly because our security does not lie in our wealth, but in our Savior. St. Paul exhorted Timothy: *"Command those who are rich . . . [not] to put their hope in wealth . . . but to put their hope in God who richly provides . . . Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life"* (1 Timothy 6:17-19). True life is given to those who, by God's grace, are unselfish with their lives and resources.

We give because God is a loving and giving God. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life"* (John 3:16). In spite of our unworthiness and our sinful ways, God blesses us physically and spiritually. God promises never to leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). God loves us unconditionally.

When we are faithful stewards of God's gifts, we will hear his words, *"Well done, good and faithful servant!"* (Matthew 25:21). As people who are a blessing to others, we will enjoy intimate fellowship with our Father and his son, Jesus. There is no greater blessing than this!

As we consider our commitment to Trinity, remember how your gifts go to bless countless others.

Your Servant in Christ, Pastor Eliezer

ACM 2020: Excel In the Grace of Giving

**COMMITMENT
SUNDAY
OCTOBER 4**



**American
Red Cross
Blood
Drive**

**SAVE THE DATE!
SAVE A LIFE!**

Thursday, October 8

Sign up online: www.redcross.org/give

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TUMC Fall 2020 Music & Arts Groups

"Let Everything that Has Breath, Praise The Lord!"

Psalms 150:6

We all welcome more members! If you would like more information, or are interested in joining a group, please contact any of the leaders listed.

Come make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

Group	Meeting Day & Time		Meeting Room	Contact
Chancel Choir (adults)	Alt Wed.	6-7:30 pm	Contact Val for Info	Valerie Wittkamper 301-788-2147 valwitt@gmail.com
Trinity Praise Band (adults)	Please contact for information		Contact Jim for Info	Jim Chamblee 240-344-1231 jimchamblee2005@yahoo.com
Youth Choir (Grades 6-12)	Sun.	5-6:20 pm	Zoom-Contact Denise	Denise Berry 301-471-8980 dberry24@comcast.net
C.R.A.I.G. <i>Christ Rose and Inspires Generations</i> Youth Praise Band (Grades 6-12) <i>Begins 9/29</i>	TBD	TBD	Contact Lynda for Info	Lynda Forman 301-845-6655 Giantmetfan@verizon.net
Trinity Brass (Grade 9-adult)	Sun.	5:00 pm	Contact Matt for Info	Matt Stegle 301-509-3042 info@trinitybrass.org
Wesley Choir (Grades 2-5)	TBD pending attendees		Contact Sherri	Sherri Mercer 301-748-5394 Trinityumc_wesleychoir@Comcast.net

We would love to find directors for a dance group and a drama group. If you are interested, please contact Angela Spencer, Coordinator of Music & Arts, at 301-514-1071 or angelahspencer@gmail.com.

Come Sing with the Chancel or Youth Choir!

"Really," you say? "Sing with the choirs, but they are not singing this fall because of the restrictions due to Covid-19."

Well, guess what – we are singing and you can sing with us!

Things are a little different than before, but both the Youth and Chancel Choirs have adapted. Simply come to the Zoom meeting or contact the appropriate choir director so that sheet music and sound recordings can be provided to you.

The **Youth Choir**, directed by Denise Berry, has a Zoom meeting every Sunday at 5 p.m. All youth in grades 6 - 12 are welcome. Please contact Denise for the Zoom invitation. (dberry24@comcast.net, 301-471-8980)

The **Chancel Choir**, directed by Valerie Wittkamper, has a Zoom meeting on alternate Wednesdays at 6 p.m. (e.g., 10/7, 10/21, 11/4, 11/18, 12/2, 12/16, 12/30, 1/13, 1/27). Contact Valerie to join. (valwitt@gmail.com, 301-788-2147)



Operation Christmas Child

Shoebox Packing Amid the Covid-19 Pandemic

Shoebox Packing Event

Fri., November 6th 3:00 PM – 9:00 PM & Sat., November 7th 12:00 PM- 8:30 PM

These are unusual times for all of us. This year has been especially challenging, but children in need around the world need the hope of Jesus Christ more than ever. We have thought of new and creative ways to continue to bless children around the world with shoebox gifts and share the Good News of the Gospel. Look for details on how to sign up for our packing event in future publications and the mail-chimp.

In order to minimize any risk to our shoe box packers, the following safety procedures will be followed:

- ♦ We will require packers to sign up for a one hour time slot.
- ♦ No more than seven people will be packing at one time. There will be up to three Mission Team volunteers to guide you along the way.
- ♦ Gloves and masks will be worn at all times.
- ♦ Physical distancing will be observed as you move along the line and fill your shoeboxes.
- ♦ Tables, chairs, door handles and restrooms will be sanitized in between groups.

Whether you are packing your own boxes or donating items to be used at our Trinity packing event, 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 are not comfortable with any of the above options but would love to provide a shoebox to a child, go to "Build a Box Online". www.samaritanaspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/#main/

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.

Please contact Laura Welker if you have any questions. yardwelk@aol.com 301 788-0048.

CHRISTIAN MATURITY

by Wanda Osborne

"Jesus Christ is our savior...our country was founded on the principles of God." -Anonymous Grow Time Class Member

".....one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all -Pledge of Allegiance

What God Requires

⁸ *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 6:6-8*

"... You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart... And a second is like it: "you shall love your neighbor as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Matthew 22:37-40

I grew up reciting the pledge of allegiance. When I look

at everything that is going on in the country today, I look back and reflect on the last phrase in the pledge of allegiance "...one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and

justice for all" and I have to ask the question of my fellow Christian brothers and sisters: **"If you believe the two quotes above, then what do they mean for you as a follower of Jesus?"** Is it just about whether or not you support abortion? Is it just about following the ten commandments and attending church? Being a Christian and being an American are not one and the same.

The Bible tells us to love our neighbor. I submit to you, that I am your neighbor and yet I am not always loved by fellow Christians. For some Christians, that love is conditional. God's love is unconditional. I ask the question, how can a Christian love God and hate people of color or people who do not look like them? If you believe this country was founded on Godly principles, how can a

Christian allow racism, or disapprove of justice for the oppressed?

In 1963, Martin Luther King said that 11 o'clock on Sunday mornings is the most segregated hour in America. Unfortunately, that is still true today. While churches may state that the doors are open to all, this does not mean that people of color are always made to feel welcome. Sometimes they are welcome only if they conform to the dominant culture in the church.

As brothers and sisters in Christ, we are not very good at listening to one another and not always sympathetic to the suffering of others or have empathy. As a black woman of faith, I have experienced racism as has every member of my household, including my husband and all three of my children. It is disheartening to hear another Christian, a member of the body of Christ, say that this does not exist. It is the same as dismissing my experience and pain or telling me that I am being too sensitive, I'm imagining things, or I'm a liberal, left wing socialist, fill in the blank. When I am called the "n" word by a white person, that is not about partisan politics on my part. When two of my children had their hearts broken because their boyfriend/girlfriend had to break up with them because mom/dad did not want their child to date a black person, that is not partisan politics.

Racism happens in suburban America as well as in urban America. When my son was followed by a police officer and eventually pulled over twice, in one night for one tail

light that was out and my husband was followed by an officer for over two miles and eventually pulled over and questioned (with the family in the car) for not having on a turn signal in the left turn only lane at a dead end street, these are not political issues. Yes, we have had "the talk" with our son, as my father had the same talk with my two brothers and my grandfather before him. I could list many more instances and include examples of injustice that I see in the Frederick community, but there is not sufficient room in this article to list all of them.

I am dismayed, when I hear Christians say that racism is a political issue. I have to object to that characterization, it is a moral issue and it goes against the tenants that our Lord stands for. We are all God's children. Inaction by others when they witness something that is wrong or unjust or oppressive goes against what God commands us to stand for those who have no voice, to stand for our brothers and sisters regardless of their skin coloration or ethnic origin.

I had originally intended for the above quote to be in the article for July 2021, in recognition of the 4th of July, but often God has other plans for us, and He put this article in my heart. This article is written out of love, but is also asking questions of my Christian brothers and sisters...we need to talk, but how do we start the conversation at Trinity?

Additional Bible verses: Deut. 6:4; 2 Cor. 16:21; Matthew 22: 37-39; 1 John 3:18; Thessalonians 5:11; Psalm 140:12; Gal. 6:2; Isaiah 1:17; Proverbs 21:3

An Update from your Re-Entering Well Task Force

Thank you to many of you for taking time to complete the recent Re-Entering Well survey. Whether you participated online or via the mailing, your input has given the Task Force valuable information and as we plan a phased-in re-entry of the Trinity campus.

Following are some of the highlights of the survey: 286 people received an emailed survey while 86 households received a mailed version. In total, 110 surveys were completed to date. According to average survey participation numbers, this is a very good response rate.

- 74% of respondents are in the "high risk" category.
- 27.8 % of respondents will feel comfortable with indoor worship when there is a safe and effective vaccine, while 11.1% are already comfortable attending indoor worship.
- According to responses, Trinity's people are continuing to attend worship services. 33.3% are watching the online service and 23.2 % are attending the drive-in service.

- 69.2% of respondents think they will return to their previous pattern of worship after this time pf social distancing, 26.9% believe they will use online more than previously.

To see a sample response, please see page 7.

The Task Force is working to establish protocols for safe re-entry in to the building based on survey results, guidelines from the Baltimore-Washington Conference and local government mandates. If you have questions, please call Laura Welker at 301 788 0048 or Don Hott at 301 325 5354



***Service on
Sunday,
Oct. 11 with
Rev. Giovanni
Arroyo***

Youth Fall Calendar

Are you ready to fan the flames?

October

- 4 Sunday, 6:30–8:00pm Youth Group LOL
Fanning the Flames at the Fire Pit / Communion
- 9-11 Friday, 4:00pm – Sunday, 6:00pm Youth Fall
Retreat *"Make it Matter"*
- 18 Sunday, 6:30–8:00pm Youth Group LOL
Making a Difference in the Word & Work of God
- 25 Sunday, 6:30–8:00pm Youth Group LOL
Making a Difference in the Will and Way of God
- 31 Saturday evening: Halloween at Manidokan

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



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."

THE 23 PSALM - Open Door Grow Time Class -

6 Week Study meeting currently 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?

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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.

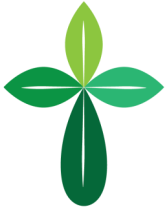
All Saints' Day

Sunday,
Nov. 1

THIS POOR SOUL CRIED,
AND WAS HEARD BY THE LORD,
AND WAS SAVED FROM
EVERY TROUBLE.

PSALM 34:6, NRSV



**TRINITY PASTORAL
COUNSELING CENTER**


On October 10, we celebrate **World Mental Health Day**. This year's theme is *Mental Health for All*. As global issues of poverty, war, lack of services, environmental challenges and the pandemic happen, there is work to do.

Trinity is involved in mental health access right here at home. This began over 35 years ago when the pastoral counseling center opened. The goal was to serve people of any faith and to not turn anyone away based on inability to pay. Thirty-five years later, we are continuing that mission right here in Frederick. Thank you for caring.

The **World Federation for Mental Health** suggests supporting this effort by learning more about mental health issues, becoming active in your community and sharing mental health topics and events via social media. You can read more by going to their website at <https://wfmh.global/>



Blessings,
Diane Younkins
Director

Sunday Oct. 4

"THEY DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO
THE APOSTLES' TEACHING AND
FELLOWSHIP, TO THE BREAKING OF
BREAD AND THE PRAYERS."

ACTS 2:42, NRSV

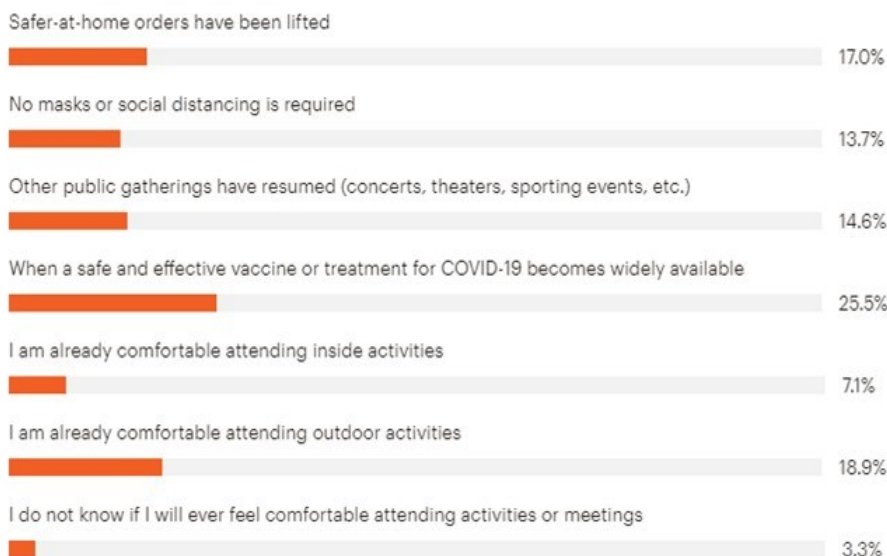


#WORLDCOMMUNIONSUNDAY

A sample result from the Re-entering Well Survey...

Question 8 has 108 answers (Checkboxes)

"At what point do you believe you or your family would feel comfortable participating in ministry activities or ministry team meetings, whether in side or out, on the Trinity church campus? (check all that apply)"



LET'S GROW TOGETHER

You don't have to do this alone.



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Permit #12

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



**Worship
on
Sunday
mornings
at 10am**

*Audio available
on campus at
90.7am*