



Cloverleaf

Trinity United Methodist Church

January 2021

Volume 33 ♦ Number 1

ROMANS 12:2

RENEWED

STARTING THE NEW YEAR RIGHT

From the Pastor's Desk...

Dear Trinity family, during the last several months we have lived things we never expected. We are in the middle of a worldwide pandemic, we have gone through an incredibly challenging electoral process, we have been seeing brothers and sisters in the church attacked each other because of their political ideas, and convictions. We have experienced how some of our members have lost their jobs and their sources of income, we have known of people at the brink of homelessness, we have known friends and family members who have lost their loved ones due to COVID-19. This year some of us have lost friends and people we cared for due to other medical conditions. These have been challenging times.

We have experienced our services moving from the sanctuary to the internet, then to the parking lot and live streaming, then to live streaming only, and the world goes on. We have experienced how our General and Jurisdictional Conferences have been postponed until further notice, as well as decisions about the future of our denomination,

and the election of new Episcopal leaders. The annual meeting of the Baltimore Washington Conference took place on-line for the first time in our history. The ordination of Elders and Deacons in the Baltimore Washington Conference took place online as well, a first for all of us. This has been indeed a challenging time.

We have been plunged into uncharted waters, we have walked into unknown territories, we have dared to live in uncertainty trusting that God is there with us, trusting that we have a community of brothers and sisters willing to walk along these paths of uncertainties. We have dared to trust that God is walking with us in the midst of all this uncertainty, and we have dared to celebrate the presence of God in our midst; we have dared to live praising God, giving God glory in the midst of all the challenges we have been confronting.

This is why we find rest and strength in the words of Paul to the Ephesians:

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"In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, **so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory.**" -Ephesians 1:11-12

You and I are destined, according to the purpose of God, to give God glory and praise in all we do, in the midst of all circumstances.

Today we have been given the opportunity to do things new, to do things differently. We have been given the opportunity to reach out and welcome new people into our fellowship not only through visitation of our sanctuary but also through the internet. God has opened the possibility for us to spread the Word of salvation to people in our community and beyond. We do not want to return to things as usual, to the normalcy of last year. We have been given an opportunity to embark in a new enterprise to reach people where they are. We have been able to offer worship online, we have been able to offer studies online, Bible studies online, and started a new podcast to speak to the world from our theological heritage.

Indeed, we can take this opportunity to celebrate a new community, a new beginning, moving forward to become the community that God desires for us and to fulfill our mission in Frederick. We should embrace the new thing that God is doing in our midst, we should celebrate the new community that we are becoming. *Even if it is the same people*, we have been renewed and revived by our

attention to the Advent and Christmas season. We have not simply endured a challenging year; we have been transformed by it.

What that transformation will look like is still being worked out. Maybe the time apart and online has made us a new community, longing to see one another face to face. In this process, we have come to realize that we cannot take things for granted. Now we are looking forward to becoming a new community of faith born out of separation and distance. Perhaps we can be bold and claim that we are the New Trinity United Methodist Church of Frederick, MD.

Let your family, friends, and neighbors know that we are celebrating life, transformation, community, and renewal because God is doing something new with us.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God."

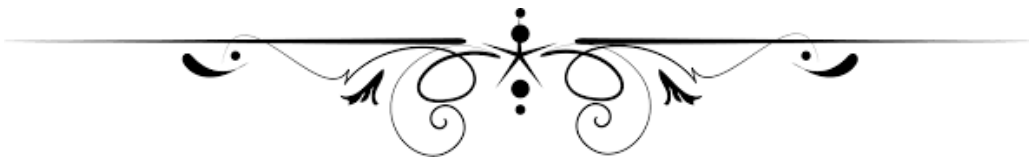
-2 Corinthians 1:3-4

May your new year be blessed, and may you be a blessing to those you meet in Jesus' name.

In the Service of Our Lord,



Pastor Eliezer



⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

-Proverbs 3:5-6

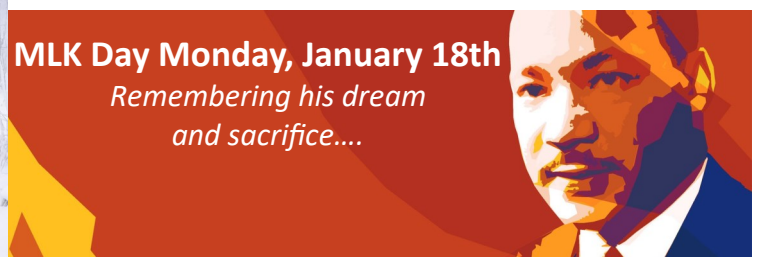


New Members Class...Starting in January 2021

More details coming soon!!! Please check the website at www.trinityfrederick.org for updates as well as the Weekly Cloverleaf. Please email tumc@trinityfrederick.org with any questions or if you are interested in signing up!

MLK Day Monday, January 18th

*Remembering his dream
and sacrifice....*





Operation Christmas Child

Thank you for your generous support of Operation Christmas Child! *We collected 699 shoeboxes from Trinity.*

During National Collection Week our Central Drop Off Location for Frederick and Carroll Counties, 14 volunteers served a total of 196 hours and collected a total of **10,674** shoeboxes. We are praising God for each shoebox and praying for the children that will receive them in the days and weeks ahead!

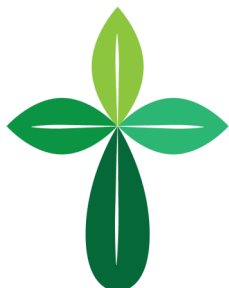


Your prayers, donations and volunteer time have made it possible for children all over the world to receive a gift, know that someone cares for them, and be introduced to Jesus Christ, the Greatest Gift of all.

COMMUNITY LIVING CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Thanks to the generosity of the Trinity church family, we were able to provide Christmas gifts for our friends from Community Living. With your financial donations, the Missions team **shopped for, wrapped, and delivered 68 gifts** that were distributed during their carefully planned-for-safety Christmas gathering.

TRINITY PASTORAL COUNSELING CENTER



The New Year brings and opportunity for reflection of the past and assessment for what worked or didn't work so well. If 2020 taught us anything, it is that **God is in charge**, not us. *It's humbling.*

Larry Brilliant, MD, an epidemiologist who worked on eradicating small pox and polio through the World Health

Organization, has said this past year that

- 1.) *global pandemics create change at every level of society; we can't go back to what was, and*
- 2.) *if there ever was a call to slow down, this pandemic is an invitation to do that.*

What does this have to do with pastoral care and mental health? As Trinity Pastoral Counseling Center was celebrating its 35th anniversary of service under the care of the church, we found ourselves completely focused on the

work at hand. The celebration may have to come later. Time has moved on. What worked has been the ability to move quickly and with flexibility to safer ways of providing care. What worked has been that various church staff and volunteers helped make payment easier for clients, including adding an option to the website. What worked has been that the committee provided support and oversight. What worked was continuing to receive donations and grants that help offset client needs. The challenge was finding time to slow down!

Thank you for all the ways that you individually and collectively have helped the Center continue its mission. Thank you to the staff and committee for all that you do to support this work. There are many hearts, hands, and minds that make this work.

Peace and Blessings,
Diane Younkens, LCPC, NCC
Director and Pastoral Counselor



NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY...Starting Wednesday, January 27th at 9:30am and 6pm.

Every serious believer longs to summon up the kind of boldness and faith that can stand firm on Mount Carmel and pray down heaven into impossible situations. Yet few are willing to go through the process required to get them there. Strength of faith, character, and boldness can only be shaped in the hidden fires of silence, sameness, solitude, and adversity. Those who patiently wait on God in the darkness emerge with their holy loyalty cemented, their courage emblazoned, and their confident belief in Him set afire.

Contact Heather Throckmorton with any questions at
heatherthrockmorton@trinityfrederick.org or call 301-662-2895.

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

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

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Sundays at 10am

Drive-In Worship has been
suspended
until further notice.

However, please join us for our
Livestream services via youtube.

You can visit our webpage,
www.trinityfrederick.org/worship
to access the link or sign up for
our weekly emails at the bottom
of the homepage.