

TRINITY LENTEN SERIES

Feb. 17-April 4, 2021

THE WALK

FIVE ESSENTIAL PRACTICES
OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE



WORSHIP AND PRAYER
Pray Five Times a Day



STUDY
Read Five Verses of Scripture a Day



SERVE
Extend Five Acts of Kindness a Week



GIVE
*Practice Five Acts of
Extraordinary Generosity a Month*



SHARE
Invite Five People to Church This Year

From the Pastor's Desk...

During the month of March there are many things we could celebrate: Zero Discrimination Day, World Wildlife Day, St. Patrick's Day, Cesar Chavez Day, Irish American Month (St. Patrick's Day), National Peanut Month, National Women's History Month (International Women's Day falls in this month), Red Cross Month, and Social Workers Month.

But one day that stands out for me in the history of the United States is "Bloody Sunday." Indeed, on March 7, 1965, 51 years ago, in Selma, Alabama, 600 people marched demanding their right to vote. You heard me talk about this in church in the past, a few Sunday's ago, at that point I shared with you that on that fateful day the Selma police and community members attacked the marchers as they were trying to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge. You can almost imagine the words of scripture being used 51 years ago in Selma to condemn the marchers on that day: "These people who have been disturbing the peace throughout the empire have come here" (Acts 17:6).

Indeed, many people would have thought that these folks were just making trouble, they were disobeying God's word which call us to submit to human authority (Romans 13:5). But there were those Christians who saw their actions as an intricate part of their religious obligation to stand with those whom God loves, with the oppressed and marginalized of the land; just as God did with the Hebrew people in the Exodus story. Bloody Sunday became a pivotal event in the civil rights movement's attempt to strengthen, and gain **equal rights for everyone** in this land. This terrible event made people realize that, what some people took for granted, not all United States Citizens were able to access. This event showed the American people, and members of Congress, the need to safeguard the right to vote to people who have been historically disenfranchised.

All this history is important to remember, for we need to never forget that the journey to our present has been covered with many challenges. Our path to freedom, and to equal rights has not been an easy path; from our war for independence, to the civil war, to the civil rights struggles, and to the present movements that continue to struggle for full rights regardless of the racial-ethnic background, to the struggle to weave immigrants into the fabric of the American landscape; we are a people who have struggled to be better than what we were before. This incredible attitude to build a better society, and a better world, we owe it to people of faith. Christians (and non-Christians too) sought to build a community where the values of the Kingdom of God can become a reality: mercy, compassion, justice, equity, peace, love, and more.

Therefore, it is important to highlight that in all these struggles for a better world people of faith have been present, people of faith have been actively engaged to make a difference. From human rights (anti-slavery moment), Native people's rights, women's rights, labor rights, worker's rights, racial-ethnic rights, education rights, gender rights, fair housing, minimum wage, and many other causes in America. Indeed, people of faith have played an essential role, not only in marches and demonstrations in the streets of America's cities but also in the halls of Congress and State legislatures; advocating for changes or creating new laws that will make it possible that today we may enjoy better conditions to live.

People of faith have been involved in every movement that has sought to secure a better future for the people of this land and in the process they have lost their jobs, they have been vilified, they have been beaten, and many have paid the ultimate price with their lives in order to make sure that God's desire for a better world for all of us may become a reality.

Indeed, the story of Selma is not only the story of the struggle Black people in America to secure their right to vote. No, the story of Selma, and the civil rights struggle, is the story of the struggle of people of faith for the soul of the nation. But not only the nation, it was (and continues to be) a struggle for the soul of many nations who saw what we were doing here and sought to emulate, sought to make changes that would enhance the lives of the people in their own countries. This is a story of the struggles of a people to disrupt the status quo, to challenge the present order of things into something that reflects the values of God's liberating Kingdom. This is a story of faith, justice and persecution. This is a story of the transforming message of the Messiah Jesus and his way of life.

As you come to church during this month, as we celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection, let us commit ourselves to **walk** like Jesus. Listen to his words, and respond to his call to follow him:

"He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, **"if any want to become my followers**, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it." (Mark 8:34-35).

This is why we ask every member of our congregation the following questions as part of their vows of membership:

- ◆ Do you renounce the spiritual forces of *wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?* (You answer here: ____).
- ◆ Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to *resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?* (You answer here: ____).
- ◆ Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, *in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?* (You answer here: ____).

Yes, Jesus is calling. Let him know that you want to follow, that you want to be an instrument of God's transforming love in the world. Your life will never be the same.

Your servant in Christ,



Pastor Eliezer



**SAVE THE DATES!
SAVE A LIFE!**

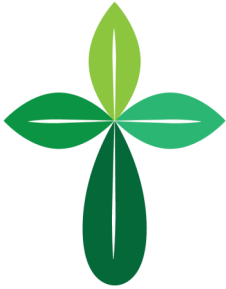
Friday, April 30

Friday, May 28

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TRINITY PASTORAL
COUNSELING CENTER



The counseling center would like to let report on *last year's highlights*. We (Pam and Diane) **provided 1014 sessions**; of those sessions, 408 sessions were provided to people who could not pay the base fee. We received donations from the church for a total of \$1575.00. We also received donations through the Combined Charities Campaign for \$1577.48 and a grant of \$3000 from the G. Frank Thomas Fund. Our balance sheet at the end of the year was *positive at \$134.17*.

A notable change for us has been the transition to virtual sessions. Missed sessions are much less likely right now. The move to on-line payment services has been helpful to clients. It is a blessing to be able to share in the church's community ministry. **We could not do it without your support.**

May God's Love Shine,
Diane Younkins, LCPC, NCC
TPCC Director and Pastoral Counselor



WORSHIP HIM EVEN IN THE MIDST OF THE STORMS

PSALMS 22:23-31

A devotion by Kevin Welker

Worship. Worship comes in many different varieties, perspectives, interpretation and implementations. One element or style of worship may truly get a child of God moving and working for HIS glory! While that same style of worship, may keep another person complacent, and in their comfortable cardboard box. That is the true, raw beauty of worship to me! God uses very purposefully,

different styles of worship to get his children's attention. Not only to get our attention but to get us excited and fired up for our purpose driven life he has set out for us. He sees the good in it way before we ever do. Yet, on the flip-side of things, we tend to only worship when things are good and in our cardboard box. We have a difficult time as imperfect children of God to find reasons and ways to praise him in the storms of life. Some of us, tend to view and utilize worship as a convenient time only thing. We sometimes make excuses as to why we are not engaged in worship or let alone going to worship.

Relationships, sporting events, more "exciting" things, tend to make us put our worship with God and to God on the back burner for later. Sometimes something as challenging and stressful and full of unknowns as COVID comes our way and it really rocks our cores. We tend to steer away from God because its easy. It is easy to say "well churches are closed because of COVID" "We can't go to church because it's closed, so we can't worship with our family" I know I had fallen into that thought process at one point. However, brothers and sisters I have also used the last year or so, to really focus on my IDENTITY. Yes I am a diehard baseball fan, yes I am outdoorsy, yes I am an uncle, brother, son. But that is NOT my IDENTITY IN HIM. I used to hide in my comfortable cardboard box of life, with my cardboard walls of comfort under those surface minded answers. All I was doing was avoiding the hard work of discovering, developing and growing so much more. All I had to do was accept it, own it and WORSHIP and THANK GOD for it. See God wants us to worship him when things are great, God wants us to praise and Worship in RELATIONSHIP with him during the average everyday times, and God most certainly wants us to Worship him during and through the storms of our life. The world may try and tell us at times that we cannot worship if a particular building with four walls is not accessible for one reason or another.

Brothers and sisters of all ages, the CHURCH is NOT closed and never has been. The CHURCH is the people, the CHURCH is the WORD, the CHURCH is the WORD through music, the Church is community of support through Facebook live services or Zoom bible studies and committee groups. We may not always be able to gather and Worship in a physical location. But we will ALWAYS be able to WORSHIP in SPIRIT and COMMUNITY and as a FAMILY of GOD! No one will ever be able to take that power and control away from our ALMIGHTY FATHER. Psalms 22:24 says, "The Lord doesn't hate or despise the helpless in all of their troubles. When I cried out, he listened and did not turn away." I will leave you with this. God says in his Word, that if we cry out to him, he will listen and not abandon us. Are you willing to accept the same for him and your IDENTITY in him for your life?

Trinity United Methodist Church - 2021 Missional Budget

Vision

Trinity United Methodist Church is called to make disciples for Jesus Christ, to transform the community, and the world.

Mission

In obedience to Matthew 25: 31-41, Trinity's mission is to challenge both ourselves and our communities to share the Good News of the Kingdom of God through acts of mercy and justice, compassion and love, and piety and intentional faith development.

Our vision and mission are not about "meeting the budget" or "all about money." This Missional Budget presents some of the stories, efforts and passions that develop disciples and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. These stories are examples of how your gifts benefit this community and world.

As we move into a new year, we reflect on the blessings of 2020 and all the accomplishments made possible by the generosity of this church with its prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. All these gifts are important for God's work. The covid-19 global pandemic has been challenging, but it has been a very rewarding year with opportunities to try new things with technology for worship, meetings, and studies. Trinity United Methodist Church is transforming our community and the world through our mission. Please check out our website at www.trinityfrederick.org for resources and links for virtual bible studies and more.

For this 2020 Missional Budget, each area of ministry stemming from the core values of passionate worship, risk-taking mission and service, intentional faith development, radical hospitality, and extravagant generosity includes a portion of Trinity's operating expenses, conference apportionments, and salaries. The Trinity Pastoral Counseling Center (TPCC) is a self-sustaining ministry unit that is a vital program of Trinity, so its operating budget is included in this budget as ministry expense and as ministry income.

2020 Minimum Total Ministry Expense: \$ 573,253

Passionate Worship

Minimum Investment \$ 127,499

Worship, an ongoing process of faith, was carried out in diverse ways. Worship, a key spiritual practice of Christian life, is meant to be practiced in community. The pastoral leadership engages our congregation in authentic contemporary and traditional worship experiences and now due to the pandemic through virtual streaming on YouTube. Throughout Scripture, we are instructed to worship God. Members of this church invest themselves in authentically worshipping God. Through worship, we instill beliefs from our heads to our hearts in order to honor God in the way God deserves to be glorified. We worship God for who God is and what God has done for us, our church, and our community.



In 2021, we will have a change in pastoral leadership. Our senior pastor the Rev. Dr. Eliezer Valentín-Castañón will begin serving the Frederick District as district superintendent on July 1, 2021. Trinity will have a new senior pastor appointed by the bishop. Pastor Mark Claiborne, our associate pastor, and Pastor John Morrill,

our minister of pastoral care, will continue to work with our new senior pastor. We will work to keep our worship experience authentic and continue to seek new practices such as live streaming the worship to provide a safe worship experiences as a result of the global pandemic. An online prayer service is another way for us to come together to worship God through online prayer and meditation. The budget provides for the implementation of new worship experiences that will engage the congregation in community with others leading us closer to God. As a



result of the pandemic, we will continue with a live streamed worship service on Sunday mornings with plans for some in person attendance when health metrics allow. Our Re-Entering Well Task Force led by Laura Welker continues to meet to monitor health metrics and guidance from our conference and local health department. Our Music and Media teams will continue to enrich our worship experience with their wonderful gifts for music. We welcomed Tamara Cashour, as our new organist/ accompanist in 2020. Our Altar Guild will continue to make our sanctuary an inviting space that honors and glorifies God throughout the liturgical seasons of the church.

Risk-Taking Mission and Service

Minimum Investment \$ 148,483

For Trinity United Methodist Church, Risk-taking Mission and Service refers to the projects, efforts, and work required to make a difference in the lives of others in our community and world. Risk-taking pushes us out of our comfort zone, stretching us beyond service to people we already know, experiencing people, situations, and needs that we would not ordinarily encounter apart from our deliberate intention to serve Christ. We offer opportunities for all people to make a difference in the lives of others through service projects, volunteer opportunities, lay care, giving, and mission initiatives. We will engage in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the values of the Kingdom of God (*equality, freedom, inclusiveness, fairness, peace-making, humbleness, righteousness*) in our community and in our world.

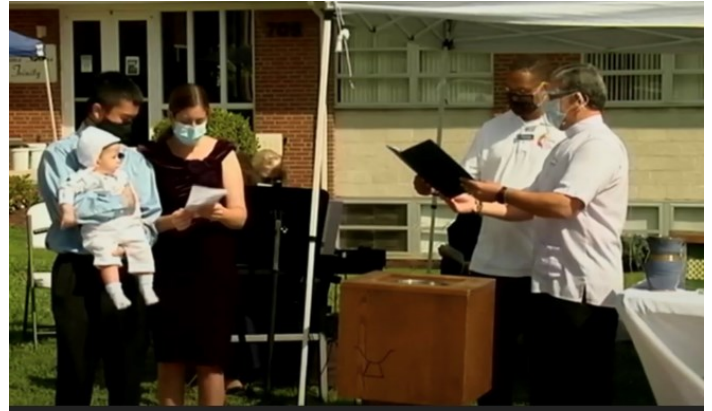
In 2020, our Missions Team packed and collected over 600 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. The connection between Trinity and Community Living continued in 2020 with Christmas presents for 70 residents. While we were disappointed that we could not host our annual Christmas party for the residents, the strong support from our generous congregation the presents were purchased, wrapped, and delivered to the homes. The Missions Team continued to provide monetary donations to Heartly House, the Frederick Food Bank, City Youth Matrix, the Frederick Rescue Mission, and the Frederick Religious Coalition. Since the pandemic prevented sending a mission team to South Carolina to help rebuild homes from hurricane damage, a donation was made to those communities to help them secure construction materials. The Women's Ministry Team were able to receive, bless, and send out several prayer shawls. The Member Care & Nurture Team continues to send cards and emails. They were able to support two blood drives this year. A new opportunity that came about during the pandemic was our partnership with City Youth Matrix. Several members of the church serve in leadership roles and helped fill "buckets of hope" with school supplies and other enrichment materials for students in our community. Through this partnership, 400 families received materials for their children.

In 2021, the Missions Team will continue its mission with Operation Christmas Child and Community Living. Church & Society will communicate positions on a variety of timely issues and engage with our community to develop partnerships to strengthen our engagement in acts of mercy and justice. Our Church & Society team will continue supporting events that advocate positive change in society with regards to civil and human rights, economic justice, environmental justice, health and wholeness, peace and justice, and women and children. The Women's Ministry team will continue to educate the congregation and strengthen our partnership with the Mumbai, India office of the International Justice Mission (IJM) for a rescue to help end present day slavery. As a church, we will continue to provide Stephen Ministry, a one-on-one confidential caring ministry through "telecare" and other digital means of connect during the pandemic, to members of the church and community.

Intentional Faith Development

Minimum Investment \$ 116,899

At Trinity we believe that all people should be engaged in learning opportunities allowing our faith to grow and our intellect to be challenged. We seek a growing faith. We will engage in acts of piety, through the spiritual disciplines of worship, prayer, stewardship, and Bible study. Learning is demonstrated in all ministries that help us grow in faith beyond weekly worship, such as Bible studies, support groups, and prayer groups. We will offer opportunities for children, youth, and adults to learn at all stages of faith. We continue to access Right Now Media and the Bible Project subscriptions for our studies and all studies are using zoom to meet virtually until it is safe to meet again in person. These virtual classes have led to new people joining in our studies from outside the state of Maryland.



In 2021, bible studies will continue to be offered through Zoom throughout the week. The pastors and ministry teams will continue to bring speakers and book studies to Trinity to continue to promote learning opportunities that help us engage our church and our community in acts of justice, mercy and compassion in church and society.

Radical Hospitality

Minimum Investment \$ 127,515

Trinity's practice of radical hospitality is evangelistic and demonstrates an active desire to invite, welcome, receive, and care for those who are not only members, but also visitors and strangers so that we may all find a spiritual home and discover the richness of life with Christ. We will engage in acts of compassion and love that are inclusive of all persons regardless of age, gender, ethnic background, race, sexual identity, economic status or social class as we seek to worship the living God together. For Trinity, this core value includes pastoral care for



all people. In 2020, our Fellowship and Hospitality team managed the Trinity kitchen to ensure a clean, well-stocked facility was available to meet our church needs. They installed a new kitchen floor. They provided food and support for several memorial services to assist Trinity families in their time of need. Trinity hosted the emergency family shelter in early 2020. The Boy Scouts prepared meals for families staying with us. In 2020, the Trustees ensured that our church was a welcoming place with their ongoing care of our facility, believing that our mission as the church is to reach out and connect our faith and the world. The Trustees have continued repairs within the church and ensuring numerous

inspections happened to keep us safe. The trustees and their many volunteers have cared for our church both inside and out.

Extravagant Generosity

Minimum Investment \$ 52,857

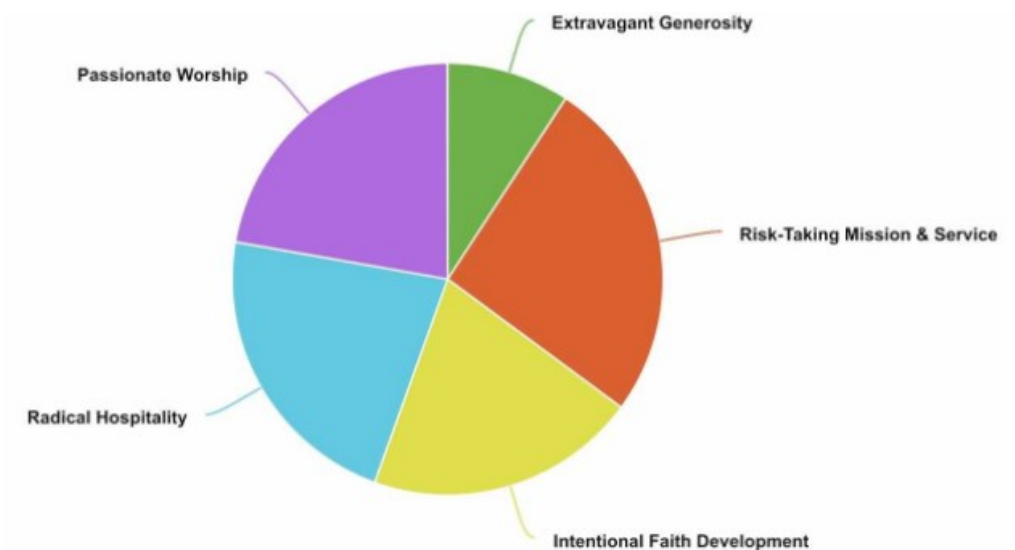
Generosity describes the Christian's unselfish willingness to give in order to make a positive difference in the name of Jesus Christ. We support ministries that address our spiritual needs, our material needs, we seek for people to give in ways that exceed expectations and extend to inspiring heights in order to glorify God. Our congregation will thrive because of the extraordinary sharing, willingness to give sacrificially, and with a joyous spirit, in order to show our love to God and to our neighbors.

In 2020, we studied “Live a God-Pleasing Life!” for our Annual Commitment to Ministry. We reached over 250 family units and received 57 commitments for a total of \$227,972 for our ministry in 2021. Because of the extravagant generosity of this church in 2020, we have been able to pay our bills and fund ministry. We were not able to fully pay our apportionment. The Stewardship and Finance team will continue to prioritize fully paying our apportionment and building up our capital improvement account to fund future repairs. The team will continue to investigate various giving options to make giving accessible to everyone and to fully fund the ministries of our church. A Financial Peace University (FPU) class occurred in the Fall of 2020. Three participants met for this important ministry that has been a blessing to our church and community. Pastor Eliezer, with our Trustees and our bookkeeper, secured a Payroll Protection Program grant that allowed us to continue our payroll, with no reduction. It also provided additional support to help with livestreaming and video recording of worship services.

In 2021, our Stewardship and Finance Team will continue to hold its Annual Commitment to Ministry. The Stewardship and Finance team will continue to offer question-and-answer sessions to keep the congregation informed of church finances and how their generosity is funding the ministries of the church to further its vision and mission. The 2021 budget includes a reduction of \$8,379 to ministry team expenses and a total reduction to expenses of \$13,515 over last year's budget.

2021 Missional Budget Summary

Passionate Worship (22% of the budget)	\$127,499
Risk-Taking Mission and Service (26% of the budget)	\$148,483
Intentional Faith Development (21% of the budget)	\$116,899
Radical Hospitality (22% of the budget)	\$127,515
Extravagant Generosity (9% of the budget)	+ \$ 52,857
Total 2021 Ministry Expense	\$573,253
Total 2021 Ministry Income (Church rental, fundraising, TPCC)	- \$ 65,650
Total Ministry Investment Needed	\$507,603
2020 Annual Commitment to Ministry (pledges)	- \$227,972
Additional Giving Needed for Ministry	\$279,631



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Monthly Cloverleaf Update

Are you receiving the mailed version of the Monthly Newsletter? Would you like to update your preferences? Please notify the church office at tumc@trinityfrederick.org in order to inform if you would like to stop receiving a paper copy and/or switch to a digital only version. Thank you for helping us update our records!!

Girl Scout Collection Drive

"Give a little-Help a bunch"

From 3/20-4/20

Spring Health/Hygiene Collection Drive

Stop by the church office during the dates above to drop off donations in the box provided just outside of the office door.

Here is a list of items needed:

- Hand sanitizer
- Liquid & bar soap
- Toothpaste
- Shampoos
- Antibacterial wipes

Any questions, you can contact:
Deb Reichelt at dareichelt4@comcast.net
or 240-490-1961.

Thank you for considering to support families in need!!!



Palm Sunday 3/28
Live stream Worship 10am



Maundy Thursday 4/1
Communion



Good Friday 4/2
"Seven Last Words"



Easter Sunday 4/4
Son-rise Parking Lot
Service (pending weather)
10am Live stream