

Trinity Tidings

An Inviting Community Following Christ For Life

Volume 54, Issue 5

May 2021

Quiet but Present

Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher).

The Gospel of John 20:15-16

His voice was bright, if a wee bit forced in its cheerfulness. Through my iPhone the question: “How was your Easter?” Perhaps I hesitated for a second longer than I thought and then said: “Quiet, but nonetheless, happy.” For many of us—Most of us?—the Easter of 2021 was not so different from the Easter of 2020. It was quieter than most. I, like you, can hardly wait to be at an Easter where our voices fill the sanctuary with “*Jesus Christ is Risen Today! Alleluia!*” And still, in the quietness of our home, with just the three of us, as a small piece of wheat bread was passed from person to person, it came to me as clear as an Easter morning trumpet blast: There aren’t just three of us here! There are four! He is Risen and with us!

It has been this hope and this sometime once-again-dawning realization that has helped us move through the last 14 months with faith and hope and love. Of course it has not been like we have wanted it to be. Yes, we have missed so many things—quite a few of them precious things—and, yet, in this demanding time in the world, we have seen over and over again that Jesus of Nazareth is risen and not only risen, but with us in this present moment. We see that every time we sit in front of our televisions or iPads or PCs and watch the worship service. We see that when we drop off sandwiches for Cathedral Kitchen or a bag of groceries for the Cherry Hill Food Pantry. We see that when PW circle and Bible studies and Church School and Senior Highs and other small groups gather via Zoom for study and fellowship. We see it when the bells ring in an outdoor service and when the choir again raises their voices and our spirits with their singing. We see that as we chat with one another at coffee hour or gather online to discuss God’s Holy Word. Perhaps all of these things have been a bit like this past Easter, *quieter*, but that doesn’t mean that Christ hasn’t been there.

I imagine that the garden was very quiet that morning as Mary Magdalene came to see if she could discover the body of Jesus. It was his voice that awakened her to his presence and she became aware that it was Jesus, alive and with her. As we move through this Eastertide and on into the summer, the one thing that we know because we have experienced it in our church family is that God has raised Jesus Christ and he continues to call us by name through our life together, our worship and education and mission and fellowship.

In this Eastertide, I am going to try to focus on the voice of Christ speaking in all the many ministries and *many people* that make up the family called Trinity Presbyterian Church. Doing that has helped me during the pandemic; I believe it will continue to help me—and you—as we move into the next chapter. Whatever comes next, of this we can be assured: Jesus is risen and with us. Look around and you will hear him calling your name in the quietness. And also: keep doing the good things because it might be your participation, your kindness, your presence that God uses for someone else to hear the voice of Christ. Believing that that is indeed the case in this quieter Easter gives us all good reason to keep

Hoping Big, Gregory



Staff

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Pam Dougherty

Session Update

At its stated meeting on April 5, 2021 the Session:

- **Approved** the Member Count of 650.
- Learned that Wills Emphasis Sunday will be May 2.
- Discussed the upcoming Town Hall on Race series event scheduled for April 18.
- Heard about Lenten and Easter worship and children's programs.
- Reviewed Trinity's February financial statements.
- Shared prayer concerns and celebrations.



Session of Elders

Clerk of Session

Jenny Stark

Adult Ministries

Jen Dukelow

Children's Ministries

Gary Naumick

Finance & Stewardship

Brad Ritchie

Membership

Susan Bastnagel

Mission & Outreach

Eric Waraas

Personnel

John Young

Property & Buildings

Rick Fletcher

Worship & Music

Steve Talbott

Youth Ministries

Tracy Miller

Strategy Committee

John Young

Deacons

Moderator of Deacons

Doug Nork

Committee Chairs

Assistance

Pete Desjardins,

Trudie Levins

Fellowship

Cindy Mailahn

Service

Randy Southworth

Visitation

Deepa Albert

News & Notes

In Memoriam:

Jeanette Zerbe

United with Trinity January 26, 1958; Died March 28, 2021

Baptisms:

We rejoice on the occasion of the following baptism:

Zoey Elizabeth Alexander, baptized April 14th, 2021

daughter of Julie Teixeira and Ryan Alexander

We rejoice this morning on the occasion of the following baptism:

Landon James Johnson, baptized April, 25th, 2021

son of Paul and Gia Johnson

BookSmiles Mission was a Great Success!



Over 850 new and gently used children's books were collected at Trinity's March Mission Thursday events. Thank you for helping put books into the hands of local children, and youth. To learn more about BookSmiles visit:

<https://www.booksmiles.org/>

Children's & Youth Ministries

Before we head into the summer and the end of our church school year, there are a couple of “*DON'T MISS*” activities planned for May:

On **Sunday May 2nd at 11:00 am**, join Pastor Sarah for our final in-person Zoom lesson of the church school year. The Zoom invitation and video links will be sent through email, so make sure we have your up-to-date email so you don't miss out on all the fun! Any questions? Reach out to Pastor Sarah at sarah.craven@trinpres.org.



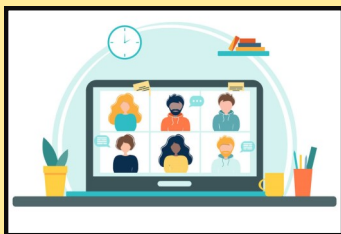
Mark **Sunday May 23rd** on your calendar: We invite our church school children and families to an *outdoor in-person, (socially distanced) fun & fellowship event*, immediately following the **5:00 pm Prayer Service**. We'll be **Cookie Decorating!** So come and celebrate the end of the church school year with a tasty treat.

The Children's Ministries Committee would like to thank all those who helped with our virtual Church School program. During this most challenging of years, our volunteers prepared live and pre-recorded video lessons for our children, hand-delivered curriculum and craft materials to our children's homes, and learned and mastered new technologies so that we could continue to teach our children about God's love!

A big thank you to Pastor Sarah, Superintendent Linda Craven, Susan Bastnagel, Hersch Craven, Jenny Leitinger, Liz Nieradka, Ben Rieth, Roberta Ritchie, Nancy Roberts, and Chris Slusser.

Fellowship Group

Next Meeting is Sunday, May 23rd at 1:00 pm

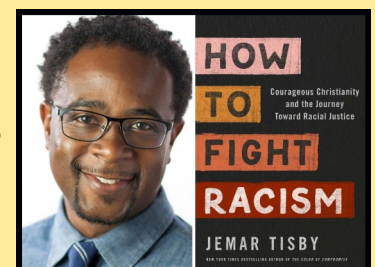


Looking to join a small group for study and fellowship? Come join the **Fellowship Group**. We have completed our DVD study of Christian practices and will share fellowship and a socially distanced picnic in a Cherry Hill yard where we will discuss our next study plan. Please join us. You can bring the water ice! Questions? Contact Jenny Stark 609-680-6090

Coming in May: Trinity Book Discussion

How to Fight Racism, by Jemar Tisby.

The book discussion of Jamar Tisby's "How to Fight Racism" was announced to begin in May. Please, still pick up the book (several copies will be available in the Trinity library) and join us for a deep dive into race, equity and the church this fall. More information in the August Tidings.





Care 'n Share is still not open, but it sounds like the shop could possibly be open in September! We still don't know for sure but will plan for that date. We cannot take donations in until August. We will announce dates as we get closer.

Care 'n Share

Just a reminder that all items must be clean and serviceable....no missing buttons, rips, etc. Only winter/fall clothing and housewares will be accepted.

Hopefully, we can operate as before and our volunteers can finally come back. If "social distancing" is still in effect, we will have to try some new schedules.

Don't forget...save the good stuff for us!

Virtual Coffee Hour



Miss seeing all of your Trinity friends and catching up over a cup of coffee or lemonade at Coffee Hour? Join us for Virtual Coffee Hour every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at 10:30am. Members from 2 to 90 years old have jumped on! Kids and families are joyfully welcomed.

We gather together on Zoom at 10:30am, and once everyone has signed on, we split into breakout groups of about ten to catch up. It's a great way to see familiar faces or even have the opportunity to get to know different Trinity members. We finish around 11:15am with everyone together again and a short prayer to send us out for the rest of our Sundays.

Since this meeting is for Trinity members only, the link will not be posted to the website. Instead to join, please click the link in your Trinity virtual & coffee hour email or contact Pastor Sarah at, sarah.craven@trinpres.org for the link. Hope to see you there!

Pledge Box Pick Up Reminder

2021 PLEDGE BOXES ARE HERE

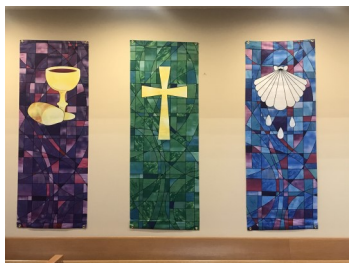
For people that want their 2021 pledge boxes they will be ready in ABC order in front of the office doors. You may stop by to pick them up Mon thru Thursday 9 to 4.

The boxes are very expensive to mail, so please take the time to pick them up. Also if you don't need your box please email me or call the church office at 856-428-2050 and we will be sure to not send it. We will also save money by not ordering your box for the following year since I am now able to order only the boxes that are needed.

Thanks so much !

Debby Talbott, Treasurer
debby.talbott@trinpres.org

CHANCEL BANNER ADDENDUM



We hope you enjoyed reading about our new chancel banners. A few of you have asked who made them. They were purchased from Living Grace Catalog, which specializes in Christian gifts, communion supplies, banners, apparel, and worship supplies.

No one from Trinity toiled to cut or sew or trim or appliqué or stitch in order to make them. But Walt Steinle did have to get creative about hanging them on our original plaster walls! Thank you, Walt!

PW Virtual Circle Meeting for May

WEDNESDAY, May 12, 2021

MIRIAM Circle 9:30am circle leaders: Pam Dougherty & Smita Simpatico

MONDAY, May 17, 2021

DEBORAH Circle 1:00pm circle leader: Doris Sapp
PRISCILLA Circle 1:00pm circle leader: Jenny Stark
RUTH Circle 7:00pm circle leaders: Susan Bastnagel & Nancy Roberts

TUESDAY, May 18, 2021

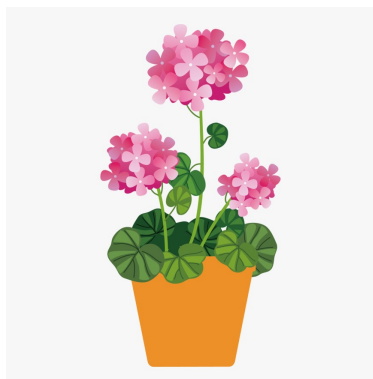
REBEKAH Circle 7:00pm circle leader: Louisa Coffin Tilsner
SHIPRAH Circle 7:00pm circle leaders: Sue Nork & Patti Baechler

SUNDAY, May 23, 2021

ESTHER Circle 11:00am circle leader: Linda Craven



PW Circle of the Month for May: Ruth



This month we celebrate the women of Ruth. The Women of Ruth Circle have been meeting together for a long time to study the Bible and help in the community and in our church.

Like their circle's namesake, the Women of Ruth circle are committed to each other and to Trinity through their faith. They are a great support to one another through good times and bad. They embody what is best in the fellowship of our PW circles.

We are sure that they would love hearing from their fellow Trinity members. God bless and keep these outstanding women of Trinity.

SAVE THE DATE

PW Trinity Spring Gathering

Tuesday, June 1, 2021
7:00 PM

Please join us for an evening from the comfort of your home to see and reconnect with your Sisters in Christ at Trinity on Zoom. We will socialize for the first part of the meeting in small groups. Then we will join back together to have a special guest speak and to install the individuals of the PW Coordinating Team for 2021-2022. All women of Trinity are welcome to attend. The Zoom link will be sent closer to the meeting.



PW Trivia Fun Night



On Sunday, April 18, PW Trivia Fun Night took place on Zoom. After being placed into small groups, Reverend Sarah Craven tested our knowledge by having us answer questions about Trinity, the Bible, Philadelphia and Cherry Hill. All those in attendance had a fun night full of lots of laughter and even learned some new facts of trivia! Stay tuned for more fun ways to connect!

Trinity to Support New Mission—Diapers for Black Philly Moms

Miriam Circle spent last fall studying racism. The Rev. Pat Weikart (Pam Dougherty’s sister) created a Bible/book study for us that explored Ibram X. Kendi’s *How to be an Anti-Racist* as well as Isabel Wilkerson’s *Caste: The Origins of our Discontent*. The long history of racism and suppression that resulted from our nation’s original sin—slavery—was exposed to us, and we were troubled by the role that scripture and churches played in the justification of that institution. But what do we do about it? How can we make a difference today? Rev. Weikart challenged us to find new ways to advance the kingdom of God here on earth, as proclaimed by God in Isaiah 65:17-25.

To that end, we happened upon an article in the *WE THE PEOPLE* section of the Philadelphia Inquirer about SistaTalkPHL, a grassroots project to support Black Philly moms that was founded by Adam McNeil, a Black man who came to the following realization after sitting alone in a hospital lobby in Maryland after being discharged from a serious car accident with no one to come pick him up:

“I just kept saying to myself, ‘you almost died and you have nothing.’ I asked myself who got me through these 30 years. The answer was Black women — my mom, my aunts, my grandma, and my cousins. If it wasn’t for them, I would have seen Hell a long time ago.”



And so, in that hospital lobby in 2018, 150 miles away from Philadelphia, SistaTalkPHL, McNeil’s grassroots effort to support Black Philly moms, was born.

“In the last six months of 2019 alone, McNeil, 34, of Lansdowne, gave away more than 25,000 diapers, two refrigerators, and two sets of washers and dryers to moms in Philly. Pre-COVID, he also rented out entire laundromats for ‘community wash days,’ inviting moms in to do their laundry for free, while also hosting vendors and nonprofits on-site to provide resources, like the Defender Association of Philadelphia, Forget Me Knot Youth Services, and Bebashi, a health and social services agency. Here’s the thing about SistaTalkPHL: it doesn’t have a fancy executive board or big donors — it’s just got McNeil, his unemployment checks, and donations from people who believe in his work.” As McNeil says: “I don’t have the funds to do it, but I also didn’t have the funds to start it, either. You don’t have to make a million dollars to make a difference.”

Miriam Circle wanted to make a difference, too, so we reached out to the Mission Committee of Session to request that SistaTalkPHL be added to the list of missions that are regularly supported by PW. Eric Waraas and the committee enthusiastically approved and offered to open it up to the entire church as part of our Mission Thursday collections.



In May, we will be asking for donations of diapers (newborn to size 6) pull-ups, and baby wipes. Please bring them to Witherspoon Center on May 13 and 27 from 10am to 12pm. And thank you for helping us take our first steps to advance the kingdom of God here on earth.

Welcome to Trinity's Newest Members!

Trinity was blessed to welcome six new members in March. These new members are already familiar faces, as they have gotten involved in the life of our church in a variety of ways. We are so grateful that they have chosen Trinity as their church home.

Georgeanne and Jim Moore

Jim and Georgeanne Moore were born and raised in the area, and started their family here in South Jersey, but Jim's work assignments led them to the Houston, Texas area, the Chicago, Illinois area, and back to Houston. After retirement, the couple moved back to New Jersey to be near their son (who was employed here after college), his wife, and three boys who live in Cherry Hill. Their daughter, her husband, and son live in Houston.



Georgeanne was an administrator who worked for school districts in Houston and Chicago. During their second stay in Houston, she worked as an administrator for the Medical Physics Program at The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

Jim was a registered Professional Engineer. He worked in various technical and leadership roles for two major oil companies and two specialty engineering firms. Unique assignment: Onsite Technical Coordinator for construction of two pipelines across Saudi Arabia.

After returning to New Jersey, Jim and Georgeanne found their (former) church too focused on politics, and frankly not particularly welcoming. After the start of the pandemic, they decided to look outside the denomination; they tuned into Trinity's online service and found the experience very positive.

Jim and Georgeanne both enjoy travel near and far and movies. Georgeanne likes puzzles, cooking, and volunteering at church. Jim likes reading (especially history) and, in retirement, genealogy. Jim has "O-gauge" trains (a call back to Christmas youth).

Jim and Georgeanne live in Centennial Mills, an "Over 55" community in Voorhees.

Julie Teixeira and Ryan Alexander

Ryan grew up in Abington and Cheltenham PA. He graduated from Cheltenham High School in 2004 and went on to Montgomery Community College for the next two years. Ryan was baptized in the Presbyterian Church, but went to church with his grandmother and brother at Cheltenham Baptist Church while growing up.

Ryan describes himself as “a hands-on guy” when it comes to work. He is a Union masonry laborer. “It's a tough job but it pays the bills and I like what I do most times,” he says. In his free time, he enjoys working out, arm wrestling, watching football, learning about being more health conscious, and watching documentaries.

Julie grew up in Western Massachusetts in Grafton, MA, where she lived next door to her grandparents and extended family. Her Catholic upbringing was an important aspect of her childhood and traditions. Julie’s family moved to New Jersey when she was in 8th grade. Julie and Ryan have been together for almost four years and have lived in New Jersey for two years. Their daughter, Zoey Elizabeth, was born this past Halloween under the full moon and was baptized at Trinity in March.

In addition to being a “happy stay-at-home Mama to our sweet baby Zoey,” Julie is also an artist—photographer, poet, and an art therapist. She loves nature, abstract painting, the ocean, cats, and creating art with others.

“We feel so blessed to have found Trinity,” Julie says. “I love the name Trinity – In Honor of our one God; the father, son, and the Holy Spirit. I also am happy to join the Presbyterian faith and see women empowered as pastors as well as the democracy of the elders of the church.”



Jennifer and Matt Valosen



You may recognize Jennifer and Matt from their participation in a recent livestreamed service when Matt was baptized.

Matt was born and raised in Burlington, NJ. He and Jennifer moved to Cherry Hill in 2016. Matt works in the Warehouse and Logistics industry. He chose Trinity because of the positive messages, openness, and tolerance spoken during the sermons. In his free time, Matt enjoys spending time with his wife and their three rescue cats: Betty, Bonnie and Houdini. He is also a semi-professional drummer, avid reader, and music lover and he enjoys watching old Western television shows and comedies. Matt would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to the Trinity family for their warm welcome.

Jennifer is originally from the Great Lakes region. She relocated in 2001 to Philadelphia to work as a costume designer for the Wilma Theatre. Since 2007 she has been the General Manager of Pierre's Costumes in Olde City. In her free time, she loves playing in the dirt with flowers and vegetables, her three black cats shared with her loving husband, cooking and trying new vegetarian foods, reading, and sewing.

Raised in the Presbytery of Northern Waters, Jennifer found that Trinity felt like home. She is happy to be joining such a welcoming open church family.



Stay Connected!



Connect with Trinity:

Web: www.trinpres.org

Email: trinpres@trinpres.org

Phone: 856-428-2050

Facebook: [Facebook.com/trinpres](https://www.facebook.com/trinpres)

Instagram: [Instagram.com/trinpres](https://www.instagram.com/trinpres)

Mailing Address: 499 Route 70 East,
Cherry Hill, NJ, 08034

Ways of Connecting with Trinity

Virtual Worship– Check our website every Sunday for our Virtual Worship services.

Phone Calls & Email– We are here for you! Call or email the Church Office, Monday-Thursday, 9am-4pm. Pastors will also be making calls and reaching out to you.

Website– Visit our website to stay up-to-date with all happenings at Trinity, the scrolling web banner at the top of the page will link you to our most important information.

Eblasts– Check your inbox (and spam folders) for up-to-date Trinity news.

Facebook– Our Facebook site will also keep you informed. This is also where you can post comments and share photos!

YouTube Videos– Check out our Virtual Worship videos but also videos of past musical performances and congregants sharing what makes Trinity such a great place to worship!

Instagram– Trinity now has an Instagram page! Follow us in this new venture on Instagram at [@trinpres](https://www.instagram.com/trinpres).

Prayer Wall– Do you know you can post prayer requests to our website? Look for more information to come on just how to do this.

Zoom Groups– Many groups at Trinity are connecting through zoom– it's like a giant FaceTime session for a whole group of people! It can be done through a computer or phone– check with your group leaders to see if they are offering this.

Please check with your group leaders to see if any Trinity groups will be meeting online in May



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Next Tidings deadline is May 15th for June Issue

