

Trinity Tidings



May 2020

From the Pastor's Pen

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My brothers and sisters, think of the various tests you encounter as occasions for joy. After all, you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. Let this endurance complete its work so that you may be fully mature, complete, and lacking in nothing... Every good gift, every perfect gift, comes from above. These gifts come down from the Father, the creator of the heavenly lights, in whose character there is no change at all.

~James 1: 2-4, 17

The time of COVID-19 is a great trial to us, and as we enter a second month of social distancing and all the changes that entails, it would be easy to be discouraged, to wonder if this is going to be the new normal forever. Certainly, I feel a lot more connected to the stories in the Bible of people facing disease and turning their trust to God. Yet, we read over and over again, God is with humanity through every difficulty. God's grace and love are enough to support and encourage the people, even in the most difficult of times, times worse even than we face today.

Cont'd on p.2

Pastor's Pen cont.

And that's why I found this passage from James so striking: "Think of the various tests you encounter as occasions for joy." Joy? Steadfastness, sure. Tenacity, great. But joy?! "C'mon, James," you might have heard me say out loud while reading, "You're asking too much. I'll get through this, but I'm not going to like it."

But then... then I remembered the joy I've always found in learning new things. In honing old skills. In finding new ways to look at the world. Yes, we're stuck in isolation, mostly inside, but this is an excellent time to reflect. If I can get past thinking of this as a trial, trying to do everything I've always done, I can indeed find the joy waiting behind, that's been there all along.

One of the things I've needed to refresh quickly is how cameras work, so that our worship recording can go well. Yet, while working on the video side, I've found new joy in experimenting with still photography, taking pictures of the world as it is, and looking back later at the images to see details I missed in the first place. I'm no pro, but there's joy in capturing good images, in seeing the world through the eyes of a photographer – it's like reveling in creation all over again.

Have you ever noticed blurry points of light in the background of photos? As a kid, I occasionally called these "spirit orbs," since I saw them in my pictures most often when shooting in the dark with a flash – it felt spooky to me. Now, I've learned that this pleasant blurring of background light sources is called "bokeh," and its shape is determined by the aperture opening in the camera. Basically, it's an image of the inside of the camera, repeated wherever the out-of-focus light is strongest in the photo.

To me, this resonated with the idea of God's presence. God is always with us, even when we're focusing on the world around us, God's creation. In the bokeh, we see that we are all made of the light of God, an image of our inside that we couldn't have seen at the moment, since our focus was on something else, but God's light was with us nevertheless. Perhaps... Holy Spirit orbs?

So, the next time you see a photo with pleasant bokeh, may you remember God's presence with you. May you find the good gifts of God, the joy that underlies even the darkest of times, knowing that we will endure together, growing in wisdom and faith.

~Pastor Lucus



Trinity Presbyterian Women
meet the
2nd Wednesday of each month at 9:45 am in
the Trinity Café.
This Month Via Zoom Meeting!
Please join us!

Presbyterian Women will meet by Zoom on **May 13 at 9:45 am**. This will be a new platform for me to use as a leader, but I think we can all join this conversation. Details will be sent via email or phone call to all Trinity PW members by May 10.

We will discuss Lesson 9: The Tenth Word,
"Words of Love: Don't Fixate on What You Don't Have."

I miss each of you and pray that you will be able to join us. We also offer an invitation to anyone who would like to join in our discussion to watch for the Zoom link in the "This Week at Trinity."

Blessings, Cindy Strasheim

All Things COVID-19

Hello! The session has been hard at work creating a re-entry plan. We have lots of information to provide you, but all of the information in this section is still pending session approval, so it could change! If session approves the following, phase one of re-entry will begin May 17th and will go through June 14th. Session will meet prior to the 14th to determine if we should continue with phase one or transition into phase two.

Who can enter the church building?

Starting May 17th, we will allow groups of 10 people or less to enter the building. We ask that if you feel sick or have had a fever 48 hours before entry, that you stay home. We also ask that vulnerable individuals (60+ and those with underlying conditions) stay home during phase one. We want to keep everyone as healthy as possible, so those who still want to attend the groups will be able to through zoom. During phase one, we ask that children remain at home. This was a hard decision, but again, we want to ensure everyone's safety! Child based activities will be put on the church website and on the Facebook page, so look forward to those!

Where do I enter the building?

During phase one, please enter the building through the front doors. During normal business hours, the front doors will remain locked to help us follow the protocols. Ring the doorbell if you do not have a key!

What do I need to do once I'm in the building?

Please read the protocol sheets taped to the doors, they will provide reminders and helpful facts! You will need to wear a mask at all times while in the building. If you do not have one, cloth and disposable masks will be available inside the front doors.

We will have sanitation stations located inside the front door, outside the bathrooms, and near your meeting location. We are also looking into installing foot door openers on the bathroom doors, but until then, there will be a sanitation station outside the bathroom.

Social Distancing guidelines are still expected to help keep everyone safe.

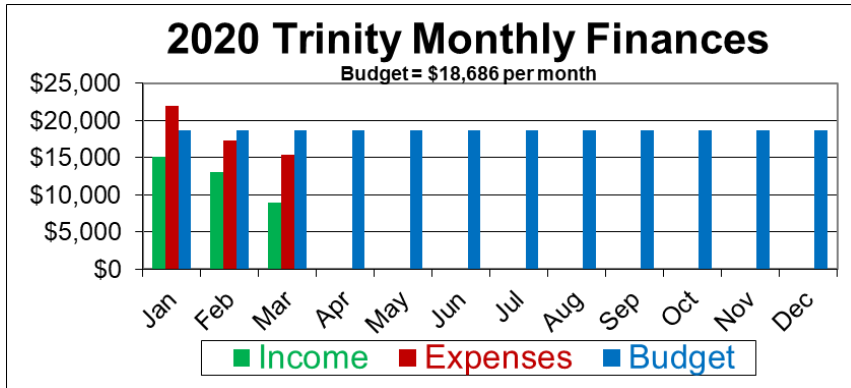
Have questions, comments, or concerns?

Reach out to your session liaison, the pastors, or the church office! We are happy to help in any way possible!

Finance/Stewardship grant kessler

Worship

sarah rayment



2020	Income	Expenses	Budget
YTD	\$ 37,011	\$ 54,661	\$ 224,226

Happy May Trinity Family!

This past month everyone was at home because of the Coronavirus. I hope every one is staying healthy and safe. Last month was a success providing our online Easter service. We were able to conduct all preparations for Easter that included flowers, communion and video production of the service.

The worship team discussed the idea of in-person service. We talked about safety measures and social distancing to follow in and after service. Respectfully Submitted,
Sarah R.

Congregational Care liz powell

Zoom Meeting – The Congregational Care team had our first “Zoom” meeting in April! It was great to see faces and hear voices that we have not been able to enjoy during this time of social distancing. Certainly, many of us have had many “firsts” in the past month. Although we would rather have been in one place and able to share a hug there are some advantages to these types of meetings; no one had to get in their car, we only had to be “presentable” from the waist up and we did not share our germs/viruses. However, advantages aside, we look forward to the time when can once again gather.

Prayer Concerns – Many thanks to our Pastors for their technological skills that have provided us with the ability to participate in several of our weekly activities. We have had wonderful worship services which can be viewed or heard in several formats. One of the parts of these services that cannot be replicated is that time during the Sunday Morning Worship Service when we have the opportunity to share our Joys and Concerns.

If you miss this time, please join us for the Wednesday Evening Prayer Group @ 6:30. The link information for this group is included in This Week at Trinity. If you need help making this connection, please call the church.

Assistance – If you or if you know of someone who has a need during our isolation please inform the Pastors. They can get information to the Congregational Care Team and we will assist. We can go to the grocery store, pick up items from a pharmacy or run errands.

Respectfully, Liz Powell



Building & Grounds

nancy cain

Bounteous! Beautiful! Green!

In this time when it's extra difficult to go out for your salad and all other groceries, you have the perfect option! Trinity garden has luscious deep green veggies growing. Yes, the J & B team have plowed, mulched, and planted safely separated but working together in the garden. You would recognize them as Jim (Mainer) and Barry (Straabe), and they know what they're doing!

Go get them, that is lettuce, spinach, kale and many, many green onions. (They may have over-planted onions...) Put onions in your green salads, on your hamburgers, in your potato salad, and garnish your soup with them. Thanks to these guys who give so much! Also, if you are so inclined, get some for your neighbor. As long as they last, go for it!

Mr. Jiles, our cleaning guru is doing some special work at the church while we're gone. When we return to worshiping together, you'll notice some outstanding cleaning has been done...carpets, bathrooms.

And, what you won't notice is overgrown grass and weeds. Jeremy with our lawn team has mulched, mowed and attacked some evil weeds. All these services are part of our budgeted expenses, and as for the cleaning and lawn care, now is the chance to get something done that is needed.



Respectfully submitted, Nancy Cain

Fellowship

john clawson

Q: How are we going to have Fellowship when we are social distancing and in quarantine?

A: The following are a few suggestions;

Reach Out

Reach out to people. It can be friends, family, acquaintances; just reach out to someone. It can be by phone, FaceTime, text, Facebook message, Zoom meetings; whatever it takes. Don't have a phone; send a letter (I know, crazy stuff). Don't have a stamp, send me a text. I'll drop some stamps off at your house. When you have connected with your people: catch up, tell them that you love them, make plans for when we can actually get together and most importantly ask them if they need anything. If you can't pick up what they need, send me a text. I'll be happy to pick up and deliver what they need.

Donate

Remember all that money you used to spend on eating out, going to movies, concerts, ball games, haircuts, etc.? If you are able to, why not donate some of that money to the church, Food Bank, BOC, or to whatever organization brings you joy. We are blessed and Jesus teaches us to help others in need.

Pray

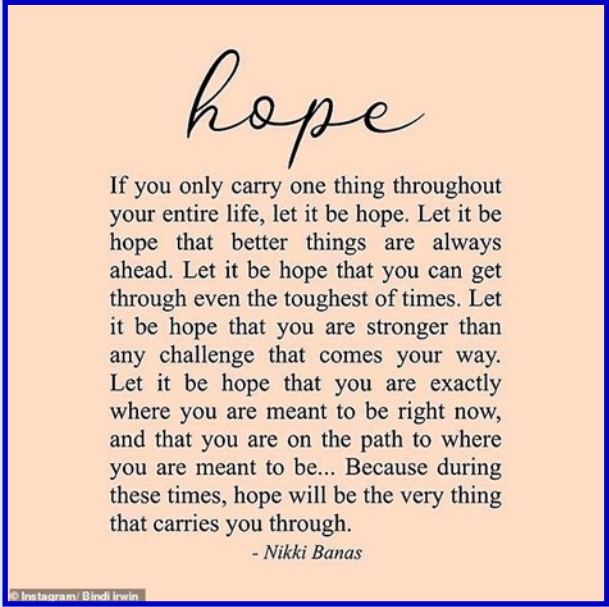
Pray for others, the world, yourself. Pray that we not only survive but we thrive. Pray that we figure out our new normal and become better people. And pray that you are able to turn your worries over to God so that you can find peace: **“Don't worry about anything, but pray about everything. With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God. Then, because you belong to Christ Jesus, God will bless you with peace that no one can completely understand. And this peace will control the way you think and feel.”** Philippians 4:6-7

Miss you and love you all very much,
John Clawson
918-625-2580

Christian Education katie hanson

Happy May! I hope everyone reading this is in good health!

It is with a sad heart that I report this. In the interest of keeping everyone healthy and safe, this year, Trinity will not have a Vacation Bible School. The Knights of the North Castle will be waiting for us next year, though! As soon as we feel comfortable as a church, a fun Saturday event will be planned! Although this is not how I imagined spending my summer, I know that God has it all planned out for us.



May Lectionary Readings**4th Sunday of Easter—May 3**

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:10-10

5th Sunday of Easter—May 10 Mother's Day

Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:210

John 14:1-14

6th Sunday of Easter—May 17

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

7th Sunday of Easter—May 24

Acts 1:6-14

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

John 17:1-11

Pentecost—May 31

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

John 20:19-23

**May**

Ben Austin	5/2
Richard Wymer	5/4
Kim Campbell	5/11
Leah Wagner	5/11
Ann Frazier	5/15
Annemarie Kessler	5/19
Mitchell Sanstra	5/28
Sarah Rayment	5/30
Scott Wigton	5/31

Congratulations!!!

Congratulations to April & Nick Goodale (daughter and son-in-law of Bob & Jill Eckert) on the birth of their son,

Pierce Paul Goodale

born 4/15/2020 at 7:16 pm, weighing in at 7 lbs., 14 oz. 20" long!

Grandparents, Jill & Bob, are doing very well!



Welcome to the World, baby Pierce!



MAY 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6 11:00 am Mid-wk bk sdy. Via Zoom	7	8	9
10 Mother's Day Teams to meet this week.	11	12	13 9:45 am Presby. Women Via Zoom 11:00 am Mid-Week Bk. Study via Zoom	14	15	16
17 Session Meeting 12:00 noon Via Zoom Phase I reopening begins	18	19	20 11:00 am Mid-Week Bk. Study via Zoom	21	22	23
24 Ascension of the Lord	25 Memorial Day Church Office closed	26	27	28	29	30 EOP meeting 1st Pres. Miami
31 Pentecost						

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