



THE TRINITARIAN

AUGUST 2022

Message from Pastor Christine

A few weeks ago Maddie and I had gotten home from church and I was puttering in the kitchen, while she played in the living room. Our kitchen and living room are adjacent to one another, so even though we were in different rooms, we were in close proximity to one another and could carry on conversation.

Maddie grabbed our piano bench and positioned it at one end of the room. At the other end of the room were rows of blankets and pillows. Then she grabbed a bunch of stuffed animals, some Alphabet cookies from Trader Joe's (if you know, you know - AMAZING cinnamon-y goodness), and a play tea pot and cups.

I wasn't clear exactly what she was imagining until she came into the kitchen and grabbed my hand and invited me to 'church.' I was seated on a couch pillow next to Yoda, who I quickly learned was visiting from outer space. Maddie then went up front and started speaking from the piano bench (aka a makeshift altar).

'Church' started out like this:

"Today is National Unicorn Day, so we will be reading about that in the Bible. After church, please stay for coffee hour; we have a mummy for you to see. Also, we have a visitor from outer space named Yoda. If someone could please lift him up so he can see the mummy, because he's small and that would be nice. Ok, now let's sing 'Jesus Loves Me.'"

And we all sang. By *all* I mean Maddie and I sang, along with some imaginary singing from the stuffed animal gallery.

It was sweet.

But it wasn't just sweet. It was an expression of faith, community, love, and the impact that we impress upon one another. Maddie's been graced to have been part of warm and welcoming faith communities and activities since the day she was born. Actually, since her conception she's heard hymns, sermons, and prayers. She attended her first Interfaith 5K when she was one month old! We make-believe MANY things in our house, including driving RVs around the world, building forts and schools out of blankets, and restaurants - just to name a few. Much of our imaginative play is grounded in real experiences. And so, it's natural that Maddie would play 'church.'

What struck me as I reflected upon her play is what she chose to include in her welcome. She made sure we knew what we would be talking about in church (ie. Unicorns). I know unicorns aren't really in the Bible. Apparently they didn't make it onto the ark, but Maddie assumes they are, because according to her: everything is in the Bible. It's a pretty cool expression of faith that celebrates unicorns as God's beloved creation. I also appreciate her love of coffee hour, because... as we all know, food often makes for fellowship. But, mostly I love that Maddie wanted to make sure the visitor (Yoda) was welcomed well into the space. In my book, that's a Jesus move.

Maybe I'm reading too much into it all...

But, I know that her faith in God and her view of goodness in the world is shaped, in part, because of places like Trinity and the people that make up Trinity. With intentionality and cultivation (and some silliness and imagination), we can continue to be a safe harbor for those who need refuge; a place of exploration for those who wonder; a place of welcome for those who long for belonging; a place of freedom for those who feel bound.

And so, thank you for what you give to not only my family, but many families. I am thankful for moments such as 'National Unicorn Day,' which remind me of how good and gracious the church can be.

Deep peace and joy,

Pastor Christine



Food Drives Continue – How many pounds do we collect in a typical month? Food Collection on August 20, 2022

The Social Ministry Team shared that starting in July our monthly food drive collection will be given to Bethesda Help (bethesdahelp.org). A thank you note from Bethesda Help following our first drop off included “ I got a bit emotional after seeing all of the food – so nicely organized – it came at a perfect time.” They also noted that we donated 415 pounds of food; those cans really add up!

Thanks to all for their ongoing support of the food drives – the need in the community continues to grow. Trinity’s food drives will continue the third Saturday of the month from 9-12. The list of food donation requests is on Trinity’s website. If you have any questions please contact Margaret F at gmfitzwm85@gmail.com

The most needed non-perishable items are:

- 15 oz canned vegetables (low sodium preferred)
- 15 oz canned fruit (juice or low sugar packed)
- 5 – 7 oz cans of tuna
- 12 oz can of chicken or salmon
- 15 oz beans (any variety low sodium preferred)
- 1 plastic jar of 14 or 18 oz peanut butter
- 1 plastic/canned container 28 oz container of spaghetti sauce
- 1 lb bag of rice
- 1 lb package of pasta
- 7 oz box of macaroni and cheese
- Container of shelf stable milk (not powdered)
- Unsweetened Cereal or oatmeal

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Margaret Fitzwilliam at gmfitzwm85@gmail.com or Leslie Schaefer at lcsjwm@verizon.net.



August Birthdays:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 01. Maddie D | 17. Erna B |
| 02. Carol B | 18. June M |
| 04. Liselotte H | 18. James F |
| 05. Giovanni S | 18. Steven F |
| 06. John W | 22. Jeff B |
| 07. Luis H | 23. Cristina G |
| 09. Wesley O’B | 24. Gary F |
| 09. Bud B | 26. Mary W |
| 10. Sydney R | 27. Dick J |
| 10. Alissa C | 27. Stella B-A |
| 11. Laura T | 29. Victor N |
| 11. Soren S | 31. Cooper G |
| 15. Philip T | 31. Grayson D |

August Baptism Birthdays:

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 13. Bjorn S | 26. Lindsey D |
| 21. Jerry B | 28. Carol B |
| 24. Sean W | |



Women’s Shelter Dinner | August 7 | 5 pm

August Blood Drive | August 11 | 2-7pm

Week of Service | August 7-13 | Time Varies

Blessing of the Backpacks | August 28

Interfaith 5K | September 5 | 8 am

God's Work, Our Hands | September 11

Narcan Training | September 17 | 10 am



FROM THE TRINITY MAILBAG

From a Wider Circle: A Wider Circle has served our community for over 20 years, all thanks to the support of friends like you! We have provided urgent and long-term support to more than 270,000 of our neighbors experiencing poverty, and we have evolved to offer workforce development and greater community engagement. Our flexibility and “no wrong door” approach to service ensures that everyone who turns to us for help is treated with compassion, respect, and love. We thank you for being a part of our mission to end poverty in our region. And, because your gift came during Matching Gifts Month, your impact will be doubled!!

Message from the Council President:

It has been heartening to see the return of more normal church life to Trinity as well as all the incredible work that the volunteers do. This gives me confidence that collectively we are ready to move forward toward the purposes that the Holy Spirit has in store for us.

As we embark on a new phase of discernment and planning, we probably each have different views about where we are as a congregation, where we ought to go, and what is possible. For me, this can be a time of discovery. What can we discover about the resilience of Trinity? What can we discover about our neighbors? What can we discover about our shared passions and talents? What surprises might God have for us?

This summer, we are asking you to share your perceptions, opinions, and experiences so that we may have a fuller picture of the congregation and your life within it. This goes beyond research. Trinity has engaged an outside coach to help us improve communications across the congregation, as we seek compassionate and healthy relationships. I am eager to have your input, through the anonymous survey or face to face feedback, which I always appreciate.

Please complete the congregational assessment survey, knowing that this is essential information and the beginning of a process of conversation, discovery, and action. Talk to Cathy C, Nancy J, or Tom K (council liaison for this project), Pastor Christine, or myself to share your questions and suggestions. Wherever this process leads, we are one in Christ. Thank you for being Trinity!



Quarterly Women's Shelter Dinner

The Social Ministry Team will be delivering dinner to the Interfaith Women's shelter on Sunday August 7th. As always we can use help with sides, drinks and dessert. Watch for a signup genie link in the Bulletin and Tidings. As part of service week, the SM team is looking for volunteers of all ages to cook/bake together at Trinity following the service from 10:30-12:00.

Signup here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050e4caba82f4-interfaith>



Blessing of the Backpacks | August 28

Come to worship on Sunday with your backpacks, lunch bags, instrument cases, briefcases, and/or the things you take to work or school. We will be blessing everyone as we start a new school/program year.



The Montgomery County Interfaith 5K is a unique race that brings together people from all walks of life, religious backgrounds, ethnicities, and fitness levels. But, what everyone has in common is a desire to come together to foster relationships and unity, while giving back to the community and building a more inclusive and healthier Montgomery County. The 5K can be run or walked, and strollers are welcome! Let's gather a group together and make public witness to our commitment to care for our community, share information about our congregation, and enjoy meeting others! The race takes place on September 5th at 8am at the Maryland Soccerplex.

Registration is now open. Profit made by the race is DONATED to two area beneficiaries: Gaithersburg HELP and C-4 Clothing Closet. Find out more about the MoCo Interfaith 5K here:

www.mocointerfaith5k.org or on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/mocointerfaith5K>.

Questions? See Pastor Christine or Angela Brown.

Narcan Training

SEPTEMBER 17 | 10:30 AM

Narcan training | September 17th | 10:30am

You will learn how to recognize the signs of an opioid overdose and how to administer life-saving nalaxone/narcan. Sign-up is mandatory, so that trainers have enough supplies. This is also the date we collect non-perishable food items. Feel free to bring a donation with you. Training is free.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4FAAA72FA4FEC52-narcan>



Blood Drives hosted at Trinity – One blood donation can save 3 lives!

Thanks to Congregation members who donated blood at the American Red Cross Blood Drive hosted at Trinity in June. In addition to members, Trinity welcomed over 25 community members to donate as well. There is a critical blood shortage nationwide - every pint counts.

The next Blood Drive at Trinity is scheduled for Thursday August 11 from 2 pm. To sign up to donate, please visit the American Red Cross website at

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/donate/blood>. Sort using Trinity's zip code 20852.

We can also use a few volunteers to help at the Blood Drive welcoming donors. If you are interested in volunteering or have questions about Trinity's Blood Drives, please contact Margaret F at gmfitzwm85@gmail.com.



Sunday School/Adult Forum Resumes | September 18

We will start up our Adult Forum and Sunday School on September 18 at 10:45 am. Adult Forum will be hybrid in Room 10. Sunday School room will be announced.



Week of Service | August 7-13, 2022

Giving thanks for all God has given us and remembering we are called by God to serve the world, we invite you to join us for any or all of our Week of Service Events:

8/7 | 9:30 am: Join us in worship as we kick off our week of service that day. Option 1: We are gathering after the service to put together the items for the Interfaith Women's Shelter dinner. Option 2. We will be offering another service choice, a project that can be taken home to complete and return.

8/7 | 9:30 am: Join us in worship as we kick off our week of service that day. Option 1: We are gathering after the service to put together the items for the Interfaith Women's Shelter dinner. Option 2. We will be offering another service choice, a project that can be taken home to complete and return.

8/8 | 6 pm: Help us make bagged lunches for [Shepherd's Table](#). A pizza dinner will be provided.

8/9 | 10 am: Join us at the [Greater DC Diaper Bank](#) to help sort supplies. [Sign-up here](#).

8/10 | 7 pm: Join us in the Education Wing at Trinity to work on quilts for [LWR](#) (no experience necessary)

8/11 | 2 pm – 7 pm: [Donate blood](#). Fellowship Hall at Trinity.

8/12 | 1 pm – 3pm: Help out a [A Wider Circle](#) Help sort donations at [A Wider Circle](#). Please bring your Covid Vaccine card, and fill out this [waiver](#).

8/13 | 10 am: Trail and Park Clean up. Meet at [Wyngate Woods Neighborhood Park](#) to clean up trash and get a nice walk in.

God's Work Our Hands Sunday is coming soon!

Social Ministry has some great things in the works for God's Work, Our Hands Day over September 11. More info will follow soon...but we need to start collecting school supplies now for our Sunday Morning Service project.

LWR sends school kits to many locations worldwide to allow children in refugee camps to continue learning in the face of serious obstacles. Beginning in July and continuing throughout the summer, Trinity will collect the school supplies listed below to assemble 200 kits. On God's Work Our Hands Sunday, September 11, Trinity will assemble the school kits during an Intergenerational Sunday School. Bins will be available after worship. If you would like to drop them off at a different time, please contact the office or Anita, and we will make sure someone is in the office to receive them. All donations needed by 9/8

- 800 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper approximately 8" X 10½"; no loose-leaf paper
- 200 30-centimeter rulers, or rulers with centimeters on one side, inches on the other
- 200 Blunt scissors
- 1000 Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- 1000 Black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- 200 Box of 16 or 24 crayons
- 200 2½" eraser

Please note: LWR asks that all kit items be new and have no religious symbols, messages, or patriotic or military symbols. Please contact Anita Smallin with any questions.



STEPHEN MINISTRY

What Is Stephen Ministry?

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2, NRSV).

Stephen Ministry has been a part of Trinity since the year 2000. The Stephen Ministry Program is a one-to-one lay caring ministry that takes place in congregations that use the Stephen System.

Stephen Ministry congregations equip and empower lay caregivers—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting.

How Stephen Ministry Works

The best way to understand how Stephen Ministry works is to learn about three groups of people involved in this ministry: Stephen Leaders, Stephen Ministers, and Care Receivers.

Stephen Leaders—Direct the overall ministry in the congregation.

Stephen Leaders are church members who establish and direct Stephen Ministry in a congregation. They recruit and train Stephen Ministers; meet with potential care receivers to assess their needs; match care receivers with Stephen Ministers; and provide Stephen Ministers with supervision and continuing education on an ongoing basis.

People learn to serve as Stephen Leaders by attending a Leader's Training Course—a one-week conference that introduces the resources used to lead Stephen Ministry, develops key skills, and gets people excited about this caring ministry. Most congregations begin with two to four Stephen Leaders, typically including a pastor, possibly another church staff person, and one or more lay leaders. Trinity's current Stephen Ministry Leaders are: Miriam Mendenhall and Susan Smith.

Stephen Ministers—Lay caregivers trained in the congregation by Stephen Leaders.

Stephen Ministers are congregation members trained by Stephen Leaders to offer high-quality, one-to-one Christian care to people going through tough times. A Stephen Minister usually provides care to one person at a time, meeting with that person once a week for about an hour. Twice a month, Stephen Ministers gather with their Stephen Leaders for supervision and continuing education. Trinity's current Stephen Ministers are: Mary Louise D, Marilyn G, Mike M, Thor N, Jane R, Leslie S, and Donna S.

Care Receivers — People going through tough times who are being cared for by Stephen Ministers

Care Receivers are people—congregation members and others in the community—who receive care from a Stephen Minister. They must be at least 18 years of age. These are people struggling through a difficult time in life—experiencing grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or some other life crisis. Some important guidelines for this caring relationship that protect both the Care Receiver and the Stephen Minister are listed below.

Important Guidelines about Stephen Ministry

The relationship between a Care Receiver and a Stephen Minister is confidential. Men are matched with men; women with women. When a Care Receiver's needs exceed what a Stephen Minister can provide, the Stephen Ministry Team makes a referral to an appropriate health professional or other community resource. Stephen Ministers serving in Trinity's Stephen Ministry Program are required to be members of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Remember in Your Prayers

THE CHURCH

our synod & bishops: Bishops Elizabeth E & Leila O

our missionaries: Stephen D & Marta G, Cent.
America

our congregation: Trinity Church

THE NATIONS: Afghanistan, El Salvador,
Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Korea,
India, Iraq, Israel, Mexico, Myanmar, Namibia,
Palestine, Somalia, Spain/Cataluña, Sudan, Syria,
Ukraine, United States, Venezuela

THE SICK AND SUFFERING

nursing/rehabilitation center/hospital

Martha R (Bethesda H&R)

Philip T (Manor Care Potomac)

Yulie N (Village at Rockville)

Anya N

Home

Tigist G, Margo W, Lineth M, Isabel F, Gio S, Vimala
P, Marilyn C, Ana S-G

family and friends*

Lonnie B, *friend of Carol B*

Donald B, *brother of Marilyn C*

Cronin Family, *sister of Jim McN*

Mark K, *brother of David K*

Gabriel C, *Len S's sister in law's husband*

Family and friends of Dieter R on his passing.

Family and friends of Alonso L on his passing

Bob D, *friend of Susan S*

Cindy Elizabeth B, *friend of Judy D*

first responders

Lisbeth N-D

Greta S & Linda A, *sister & sister-in-law of Anita S*

Vanessa B, *friend of Elizabeth & Ben R*

deaths

Barbara M + June 13, 2022 ,friend of Valerie Mayer

Dieter R +June 13, 2022 , friend of Valerie M

Alonso L + June 8, 2022, friend of Len S

**For family and friends, prayer requests will be kept on
the list for four weeks. After four weeks, please
complete another card/call the office.*