



THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Trinitarian

June 2021

A REFLECTION FROM YOUR INTERIM PRIEST

*Where Jesus lives, the great-hearted gather.
We are a door that's never locked.*

-Rumi

This saying by the Sufi mystic Rumi is carved in stone over the door of a Christian church in the city of Shiraz in Iran. I returned to it as I thought about all the different “doors” we will discover unlocked during the month of June: You will prepare for new ministry; our children will end another school year and our young people will graduate to a new stage of their lives; pandemic restrictions will continue to ease and we will return to in-person worship in our sanctuary. It is a good time to renew our promise to be an “open door” to the peace and truth for which so many people hunger.

The Holy Spirit is growing in our hearts
and making us “great hearted.”

The Holy Spirit is freeing us from fear and complacency
and allowing us to let go of willfulness

The Holy Spirit is guiding us into a new life
and giving us the vision to imagine new possibilities.

In the midst of beginnings and endings, we remember that our lives are unfinished. Our young people inspire us to cherish this truth with joy and confidence. The Holy Spirit will continue to work wonders in and among us as long as we keep the door unlocked. I give thanks every day that I have been able to share in this “great hearted” life with you.

Mother Judith+

DURING THIS TIME – JUNE 2021

On May 30th we resume in-person worship in our sanctuary with a service of Holy Eucharist at 9am every Sunday. This will be a hybrid service. You may participate on Zoom or in person. We will continue to show the service on camera, and we will have a screen in the front of the church where we will project the Zoom participants and the service leaflet.

We will adjust as state public health mandates change, but right now, masks and social distancing are required in the sanctuary. To begin, the number of participants in the sanctuary will be limited to 40 persons. Members of a household may sit together. Friends who do not live together but who have shared a “bubble” are considered a household. There will be a sign-

up procedure online and by phone. Please watch for details.

Our next step is to develop and train a technology team of Digital Ministers who will learn how to use new software to incorporate recorded instrumental and choral music into live worship and to incorporate remote interaction. We will need 2 volunteers each Sunday: One in the sanctuary to operate the camera and one at home to operate Zoom.

Meeting and Storage Space

Your Wardens have organized a team and a plan to clear out and reorganize storage areas in the Blue Room, the Mary Moore Room, and the Basement.

Sundays in June

- June 6th Family Service – Celebrating our Sunday School and our Youth Group
In thanksgiving for the ministries of Rachel Carpenter & Dr. Sarah Prevelige
3pm – Diocesan Confirmation at Christ Church Cathedral in Springfield
7pm – Senior Youth Group on Zoom
- June 13th Celebration of our Graduates
- June 20th Father’s Day – Our grandfathers will read
- June 27th The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Resolved

- ✓ Approved Quarterly Financial Report as of March 30, 2021
- ✓ Extended Mother Judith’s contract through June 30, 2021
- ✓ Appointed Peach Warren to fill Gayle Ruscitti’s Vestry seat through January 2022

Discussion

- ✓ Planning: Honoring our Graduates on June 13th
- ✓ Planning: clearing out storage spaces in preparation for new ministry
- ✓ The Search: discussion with the Search Committee & Canon Rich Simpson

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

“And when this has passed may we say that love spread more quickly than any virus ever could, may we say this was not just an ending but also a place to begin” —Christine Valters Paintner, Abbey of the Arts

Are you looking forward to what comes next, but not quite sure what that actually is? We just know there is something “coming next”. As many times that I have said to myself over the past 15 months “I just wish this was over and things were back to normal”, I find myself trying to figure out what was the normal of the past that I am looking for. After this much time we have all changed, we have all grown, figured things out, adapted, and just dealt with almost daily change, so whatever comes next is all going to be new.

In any other June, we would all be dealing with change and the “what comes next”, but this month is going to be so much more than the normal changes we were expecting. We are moving to in-person worship – not exactly the way it was before, but something that is our next step to take. The Search Committee has finished their work; that means something comes next. Graduations are upon us – certainly our youth and young adults can only be wondering

what in the world is coming next. We have been waiting for the “what come’s next” for so long and it seems we are just about there but are still trying to figure out what exactly the next step looks like. At Trinity, I know we have a family to lean on. Each of us is there to help whoever is having a hard time dealing with what comes next, or someone to share that sheer excitement that something is finally happening! I can only say that I am so blessed to have this family with me to take those next steps.

I’d like to share the poem below with you – in the rush to get to the next steps I like to hope that I remember all those who over the past 15 months got us to these next steps in the journey.

Praise be the nurses and doctors, every medical staff bent over flesh to offer care, for lives saved and lives lost, for showing up either way,

Praise for the farmers, tilling soil, planting seeds so food can grow, an act of hope if ever there was,

Praise be the janitors and garbage collectors, the grocery store clerks, and the truck drivers barreling through long quiet nights,

Give thanks for bus drivers, delivery persons, postal workers, and all those keeping an eye on water, gas, and electricity,

Blessings on our leaders, making hard choices for the common good, offering words of assurance,

Celebrate the scientists, working away to understand the thing that plagues us, to find an antidote, all the medicine makers, praise be the journalists keeping us informed,

Praise be the teachers, finding new ways to educate children from afar, and blessings on parents holding it together for them,

Blessed are the elderly and those with weakened immune systems, all those who worry for their health, praise for those who stay at home to protect them,

Blessed are the domestic violence victims, on lock down with abusers, the homeless and refugees,

Praise for the poets and artists, the singers and storytellers, all those who nourish with words and sound and color,

Blessed are the ministers and therapists of every kind, bringing words of comfort,

Blessed are the ones whose jobs are lost, who have no savings, who feel fear of the unknown gnawing,

Blessed are those in grief, especially who mourn alone, blessed are those who have passed into the Great Night,

Praise for police and firefighters, paramedics, and all who work to keep us safe, praise for all the workers and caregivers of every kind,

Praise for the sound of notifications, messages from friends reaching across the distance, give thanks for laughter and kindness,

Praise be our four-footed companions, with no forethought or anxiety, responding only in love,

Praise for the seas and rivers, forests and stones who teach us to endure,

Give thanks for your ancestors, for the wars and plagues they endured and survived, their resilience is in your bones, your blood,

Blessed is the water that flows over our hands and the soap that helps keep them clean, each time a baptism,

Praise every moment of stillness and silence, so new voices can be heard, praise the chance at slowness,

Praise be the birds who continue to sing the sky awake each day, praise for the primrose poking yellow petals from dark earth, blessed is the air clearing overhead so one day we can breathe deeply again,

And when this has passed may we say that love spread more quickly than any virus ever could, may we say this was not just an ending but also a place to begin.

—Christine Valters Paintner, *Abbey of the Arts*

<https://vimeo.com/404108104>

ROMEOS and JULIETs LUNCHEONS



ROMEOS Under the Shed

The ROMEOS group will continue in June by meeting at George's Surf 'n Turf, located at the former Redwood Drive-In, Route 16, Mendon, on Friday, June 4, at 12:30. George's is about 1/2 mile past Lake Nipmuc, on the left. We will grab a table under the shed and eat there. Bring a folding chair in case it is needed. We will order separately and have separate checks.

If you would like to attend, please contact Dave Clinkman at clinkman@comcast.net or 508-634-8996 by Wednesday, June 2, so we can arrange seating for everyone. Please be vaccinated against Covid and follow any current protocols. ROMEOS is a social group for retired men and other men who wish to join us during their lunch hour.

JULIETs

The JULIETs, who have not been meeting because of the pandemic, are getting back together! If you would like to join this group of women from Trinity who go out to lunch once a month, please let Pat Keppler know: 508 966-0003 or 508 246-9703 or pat_keppler@yahoo.com.

For our first time back, we plan to have lunch at New England Steak and Seafood in Mendon. This is an indoor restaurant, but it is usually not crowded at lunch time so it should be easy to socially distance. Please let Pat know if you plan to attend, or if you would like more information about the group. New members are always welcome to join the fun!



Next Meeting: Sunday June 6th @ 7 PM on Zoom

On May 20th we had a table at the Grab 'n' Go meals with games and books for indoor summer fun. On June 24th, we will have tables with flip flops, sunscreen, and bug spray. We thank everyone for your support and your donations. On June 6th, we will also discuss possibilities for mission projects for next year.

Thank you to Dr. Sarah Prevelige for mentoring the Youth Group this year, and to Anna Prevelige, Sean Prevelige, and Allison Kee for their leadership.

ALTAR FLOWERS: SUMMER



Now that we will be gathering for Holy Eucharist every Sunday, we would like to have fresh flowers at the altar every week. However, our florist reports that prices have increased significantly during the pandemic. We invite donations from your gardens. Please contact Mary-Ellen Yaroshefski if you wish to contribute. This may be an opportunity for thanksgiving or memorials.



Congratulations to Kimberly Stochaj, Amanda Ellis, and Nicolas Figueroa, who have each been awarded scholarships from the GFS Scholarship Fund. The members of Trinity Episcopal Church appreciate their individual contributions to our family of faith and wish them luck in their college careers.

GFS Scholarship Committee

SUNDAY SCHOOL



On June 6th we will celebrate this year of Sunday School! We have 12 children who have joined our Zoom church school this year. 4 of these children are from our collaborative churches (St. Matthew's in Worcester and United Parish of Upton) and 8 are from our own church. It is exciting to see a program grow, especially while we are having remote classes! May will be our last full month of church school this year. We have been thrilled to get together each Sunday this school year, even if only on Zoom. Congratulations to the Trinity children and youth who have participated this year: Emily Kee, Landon Sweet, Evie Yaroshefski, Teagan Richards, Kyra Richards, Zoe Richards, Sebastian Carpenter, and Malichai Carpenter.

Rachel Carpenter
Sunday School Coordinator

ECUMENICAL VACATION BIBLE CAMP



Dining in the Kingdom of God

Vacation Bible Camp: Dining in the Kingdom of God

August 2nd-5th. 3-5:30 pm

K-12 Hybrid: At home and at our Parish Hall

This year, in partnership with St. Matthew's-Worcester and the United Parish of Upton, we will have a hybrid Vacation Bible Camp. Each day will have a different theme and a different menu. Participating either on Zoom from home or at the Parish Hall at the United Parish of Upton, Trinity participants will join with children and youth from these two parishes to prepare a meal to be eaten at home. We will share stories about feasts in the Bible, and each day we will learn a new song. Senior High youth may earn community service hours by participating as leaders, coaches, or performers. Watch for more information.

GOOD NEWS GARDENS



On May 16th, I went to a plant and seed exchange in Greenfield MA. Our sister church, The Episcopal Church of Saints James and Andrew hosted a Good News Gardens event. I brought several of our Good News Gardens plants to donate and exchange. I brought home an heirloom purple tomato plant as well as two very small plants that are also heirloom tomatoes, not purple, but they are labeled as Sun Glory. A woman at the event explained to me that these plants are native to the Tribal People of the Greenfield area. In addition to the tomatoes, I got some intriguing flower seeds and a few herbs. The tomatoes are what I consider my "swap treasure". These tomato plants are heirloom. The seed line has been preserved for generations. These kinds of plants are usually very hardy and resilient to pests. But the meaning attached to them is more important to me.

I have learned so much about recognizing and treasuring our cultural differences, both through Sacred Ground and with Good News Gardens. Last week I attended the first class in the course that Good News Gardens provides. One of the questions they asked us was who were the people who lived on this land before us? The answer for me is that most of the interior portion of what is now Massachusetts and parts of Rhode Island and Connecticut was occupied by people who the English refer to as Nipmuc, or "fresh water people". In the Mendon Upton Regional School District, we have Nipmuc Regional School. I like to think about the heritage of these tomatoes and how long the line has been preserved. I feel a connection to the native tribe who nurtured the seeds for generations - before they were joined by the rest of us, and how the DNA of these seeds goes so far back in time. I hope Charlie I can keep this seed line going. And I can't wait to see and taste a purple tomato! I will share them because that is the goal of Good News Gardens, share the produce! If you have a plant, nurture it and share the harvest. If you don't have one yet, but want one, we are going to give more plants away after Memorial Day. Charlie has been transplanting the plants and helping them grow. Stay tuned for the next few giveaway dates.

We have been encouraging container gardening, but if you long to have your hands in the earth, you are invited to volunteer at "Garden of Hope" on the bike/walk rail trail in Milford. I am

collaborating with Lisa Trussis to manage the garden at Christopher's Corner, near Fino Field Pool, directly off the bike path.

On June 5th, we are having a garden work party at 9am. If you are interested in shoveling dirt, planting, or watering, you are welcome to join us! We will have a table with containers for those who want to garden but cannot get down on their hands and knees to do the work. You can still plant, water, and weed. The earth is amazing! Gardening can be a chore, a healing process, nurturing, wearying, and uplifting – all at the same time. And it is like alchemy, instead of creating gold, it produces food. And I do love to eat!

Respectfully, *Mary Johnson*

MEDITATION AND MOVEMENT



Wednesday June 2nd 7:30-8pm on Zoom

We have begun a new program on the first Wednesday of every month. Cindi Scrimgeour and Michelle Madden will lead us through a guided meditation, with simply movement and music that is both inspiring and calming. The Zoom link will be sent on Wednesday morning.



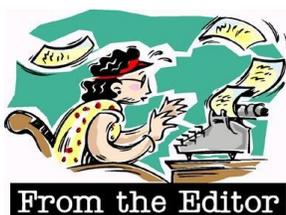
Boy Scouts of America Troop 2 in Milford is looking for new scouts: boys aged 11 to 17.

BSA Troop 2 will teach your child independence, strength, pride, leadership, and a variety of other skills. Outdoor survival skills, community service, and duty to God and country are just a few things that your scout will learn with Troop 2, all while having fun. We have weekly meetings, do regular camping events, summer camp, day trips and community service. We have over 93 years of rich Troop history with Sacred Heart Church as our sponsor and over 135 Eagle Scouts. Join and help keep the legacy going.

Contact scoutmaster@troop2milford.org for more details.

NewsLetter DEADLINE

Just a reminder that the deadline for submissions for the July-August edition of *The Trinitarian* is June 15th. Content that is submitted late may not make it into the newsletter but can be included in the weekly email blast. All articles should be sent to: news@trinitychurchmilford.org.



The warm weather is here, despite a cold spring. My lovely magnolia did not bloom this year, as all its buds and nearly open blooms shriveled up in the cold and snow. Yet, I see signs of life as leaves begin to sprout. I am always amazed by the resilience of nature all around us. Be resilient, and hope for the best! Happy summer to all.

Elizabeth Kfisiewicz, Editor news@trinitychurchmilford.org

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