



THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Trinitarian

October 2020

A REFLECTION FROM YOUR INTERIM PRIEST

Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds. - Deuteronomy 11:18

These words from Deuteronomy have come to mind as I have reflected on the Scripture that will guide your search and preparation for new ministry:

*Trust in God with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge God, and God will make straight your paths.*

Proverbs 3:5-6

These words will guide all our planning in the coming months. We will read them in our service leaflets and our announcements, and they will be incorporated into our prayers at every service.

Trust is a particularly challenging spiritual practice. In our culture, we are taught from an early age to become self-sufficient, to be wary of strangers, to be watchful for hidden dangers. Today, of course, we do not know what information to trust or what promises are empty. We tend to equate trust with naiveté, passivity, or weakness.

But trust requires courage and self-understanding. We can trust wisely only when we face our vulnerability. Trust frees us from the barriers we ourselves build against this vulnerability. When we accept the ways that we are vulnerable, we are free to wonder at the gifts in our lives that we have not earned and at all the possibilities that had been hidden from us. Trust makes us both bold and humble.

As we begin this new phase in our Interim Period, let us trust in the wonderfully mysterious ways of God. Let us show our trust in the work of the Profile Committee by participating in the Parish Meetings on Zoom. Let us recapture the light-hearted Spirit with which we have begun other new adventures in our lives. Let us embrace our vulnerability. Let us fix in our hearts and minds the assurance that *God will make our ways straight*.

Anticipating the challenges and opportunities of the coming months, I have returned often to one of my favorite poems by Mary Oliver:

*On cold evenings
My grandmother
With ownership of half her mind—
The other half having flown back to Bohemia—*

*Spread newspapers over the porch floor
So, she said, the garden ants could crawl beneath,
As under a blanket, and keep warm,*

*And what shall I wish for, for myself,
But, being so struck by the lightning of years,
To be like her with what is left, that loving.*

- Mary Oliver, *In Praise of Crazy of a Certain Kind*

Judith+

DURING THIS TIME – October 2020

*God of mercy, you have blessed us beyond our dreams;
you have set before us promises and perils
beyond our understanding;
help us to struggle and pray
that the perils may be averted and your promises fulfilled.*

-from A New Zealand Prayer Book

1. We will not gather for indoor worship for the foreseeable future. Our sanctuary lacks proper ventilation and is not large enough to gather safely even for a short service.
2. This is our Sunday schedule for October and November:
 - **8 am** Outdoor service of Holy Communion in the parking lot
 - **9 am** Morning Prayer on Zoom [as we have been doing]
 - **9:30 am – 10 am** Zoom Coffee Hour
 - **9:45 am** Zoom Sunday School begins with a Children's Prayer and Homily
 - **10am – 10:30 am** Zoom Sunday School Class
 - **10:30am -11:30 am** Distribution of Holy Communion to individuals in the church
 - **Sunday afternoon** - Home Communion for those who request it
3. We will plan for a virtual service of Holy Communion in addition to Morning Prayer on Sundays beginning in December.
4. On the third Sunday of each month, the Wardens and Vestry members will assist in leading worship and will lead discussion after the service about Vestry decisions and planning; we will also have an update from the Profile Committee. Typically, this will be on the third Sunday of each month (following the Vestry meeting), but times and dates are TBA.
5. The Christmas Fair will not be held indoors this year. We are planning for alternative formats with online sales and pre-orders.

6. We have reviewed our new Building Policy and Building use with all the groups who held meetings at Trinity Church before we shut down. Some groups will return, while others have decided to continue meeting remotely.
7. We will distribute Grab-n-Go meals from Trinity every Thursday beginning at 4:30 pm. We have received a grant from the Greater Milford Community Health Network (CHNA6) to purchase meals from local restaurants on the first three Thursdays of the month as a way of supporting both local businesses and our neighbors. On the last Thursday of each month, we will distribute a meal prepared in our kitchen. Every week we will include a face mask, hand sanitizer, and dessert with the meal, and non-perishable food is available to be taken home. We are seeking private donations and grants to fund this program every Thursday through the spring.
8. Abundant Care, Inc. will prepare take-out Thanksgiving Dinner this year. Please see Dave Scott, Justin Varteresian, or Marty Ploof Jr. to learn how you can help.
9. We will meet for Morning Prayer on Zoom on Wednesdays at 10 am and for Bible Study on Zoom every Friday at noon through the month of November.
10. We will have virtual **Sunday School on Zoom every Sunday at 9:45 am**, beginning on **October 4th**. On the first Sunday of each month, we will have family service at which our youth are readers; on the other Sundays children and youth from St. Matthew's-Worcester and the United Parish of Upton will join us for class.
11. Weekly Zoom Chats will resume on **Wednesdays at 7 pm**, beginning on **October 14th**
12. Family Game Night and Bingo will resume when the cold weather begins
13. **Sacred Ground:** Trinity will host this program designed by the Episcopal Church. Approximately 30 participants will meet either on alternate Sundays 5-6:30pm or on alternate Tuesdays 7-8:30 pm on Zoom until Thanksgiving.

BIBLE STUDY

Fridays @ Noon: Women of the Bible



October 2nd	Hannah
October 9th	Deborah and Judith
October 16th	Ruth & Naomi
October 23rd	Elizabeth, Mary, & Ann
October 31st	Martha & Mary of Bethany

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

Sunday Schedule:

- 8am** Outdoor service of Holy Communion [see details below]
- 9 am** Morning Prayer on Zoom [as we have been doing]
- 9:30 -10 am** Zoom Coffee Hour
- 9:45 am** Zoom Sunday School begins with a Children's Prayer and Homily.
- 10am – 10:30 am** Zoom Sunday School Class
- 10:30-11:30 am** Distribution of Holy Communion to individuals in the church with private prayer.
- Sunday afternoon - Home Communion for those who cannot come to the church.

Outdoor Service of Holy Communion

We will publish ahead of time the weather conditions under which the outdoor service will not be held.

Location: Trinity Parking Lot [parking on the street and in the adjacent parking lot]

Capacity: 15 spots are marked, each for an individual or a household

Attendance Limit: 30 individuals

Sign-up –By phone or online. A team will call members who currently receive weekly mailings and ask 3 questions:

- a. If they will attend the outdoor service
- b. If they would like to receive communion separately at the church
- c. If they would like communion brought to them

- Masks will be required, attendees will be asked to sign a health questionnaire, and hand sanitizer will be available.
- No hymnals or prayer books
- Service leaflets will be available for people to pick up and take home
- Separate entrance and exit to the parking lot will be monitored
- Folding chairs will be available

Sound System: We have a microphone and speaker system for outdoor use.

Livestreaming: This service will not be live-streamed. It will be offered in addition to our continuing service of Morning Prayer at 9 am on Sundays.

Liturgy and Distribution of Communion

- Every wafer will be in a small plastic baggie. Mother Judith will consecrate a group of wafers on a large plate, which she will bring to each group/pod; each person will take a wafer and will consume it after she has moved on to the next group/pod.
- Each person who uses a chair will wipe it down after the service. After the 8 am service, the consecrated wafers (in the baggies) will be placed on the altar in the sanctuary, and candles will be lit.
- Between 10:30 and 11:30 am, individuals may come and receive communion privately in the sanctuary (seats marked 6 ft apart and all social distancing protocols to be followed and the windows open).
- Mother Judith will bring Holy Communion to the homes of people who request it.

Volunteers needed

Setup and takedown (2): chairs, monitoring entrance/exit; hand sanitizing

Monitors: 8am (1) entrance/exit; 10:30-11am (1) monitoring entrance, exit, and seating

CHRISTMAS FAIR 2020

Hi everyone, hope you are well and keeping safe. Amidst this terrible pandemic, life must go on. We are trying to have church as available to you as possible; with so many constrictions it

is not easy but I think with Mother Judith and Vestry we are doing a good job, although different from what we all know.

What else will be different is the Christmas Fair this year. Per the guidelines of the Department of Public Health and the diocese, we can't have the public in the building so the Chairs will be meeting to put their heads together to come up with some kind of Fair. Some thoughts are virtual, using Facebook. Food orders, cookie orders, greens orders, and possibly outside, and other tables outside. We welcome any thoughts and ideas you may have. Contact Gayle Ruscitti jrgrrus@yahoo.com or Mary Ellen Yaroshefski. This is actually exciting to see what we can come up with and how we can do the Fair differently possibly going forward.

Keep safe all,

Gayle Ruscitti, chairperson



ROMEOs LUNCHEONS

ROMEOs will meet on Zoom at **12:30 pm on October 2nd**. The access link will be sent by email. Please contact Dave Clinkman if you have any questions or concerns. JULIETs luncheons will resume when we are able to meet indoors at a restaurant. Please contact Pat Keppler for further information.

A NOTE FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

How quickly fall seems to have arrived!

Despite some limitations caused by coronavirus, Trinity is moving forward. We continue to meet for Morning Prayer on Sunday and Wednesday mornings, and we are looking to expand those options to include in-person gatherings as soon as we can. The Lane Chapel is now available for small-group meetings and our community meals program has been providing Grab-and-Go meals since May. Virtual Sunday School will begin in October. The Bible Study group meets at noon on Fridays and Sacred Ground, a study program on the history of racial injustice, begins at the end of September.

The Vestry and the Profile and Search Committees recently met with Canon Rich Simpson to talk about the results of the Holy Cow survey. The Profile Committee has begun its work and you will soon receive information about those results. You will also hear about meetings where parishioners will be able to share their thoughts on what Trinity is looking for in a new rector. It may only be October, but it is time for us to be looking forward to the coming year. The Vestry that is elected in January will call our new rector. The Wardens and Vestry will work closely with him or her to enable a smooth transition.

After three years in the position, I will not be continuing as Senior Warden. Although I have enjoyed the work and found it rewarding, it is time for me to move on. In January we will choose a new Senior Warden, Junior Warden, four vestry members, and one new vestry youth member, as well as delegates to Diocesan Convention. In a time of change, it is really

important to have committed individuals fill these positions. Please consider how you can participate in the leadership of Trinity. Everyone except members of the Search Committee can serve in these positions.

We are also hoping to elect a new Treasurer this year. We have changed that role by removing some of the treasurer’s duties to the assistant treasurer and moving some of the duties of both to the parish secretary. By doing this, we have made the treasurer’s position more supervisory, requiring less time but still maintaining oversight of parish finances.

If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact me, Mother Judith, Susan Edmonson, Cheryl Taylor, or any vestry member.

Please check your weekly email for information and links to Trinity services and activities. Though it’s not as good as in person, getting together virtually provides a wonderful opportunity to see and share with one another.

Ginny Starkis
Senior Warden

 SEPTEMBER MEETING SUMMARY	
Treasurer’s Report	<p>We are a bit short in pledges, about \$3,200 as of the end of August. Actual shortfall is projected to be about \$4,000.</p> <p>We have received an anonymous, large, unexpected donation. Discussion of how to use it was tabled until there is a clearer picture of our annual finances.</p> <p>Some of the treasurer’s duties will be taken over by the parish secretary. Cheryl will be training Magee to lessen the requirements of the Treasurer’s position.</p> <p>A discussion was begun about how to salvage some Christmas Fair income. We need to look at this as a “re-invention” opportunity. Gayle will be getting the chairs of the tables together and further plans will be discussed at the next meeting.</p>
Mother Judith’s Report	<p>Mother Judith asked for approval of her proposal to expand services. The diocese needs to sign off on this before we can implement anything.</p> <p>September 24th will be the first meal that will be prepared at the Church by the “kitchen crew” for distribution. We will continue to use the grant funds for “Grab n Go” meals packaged by restaurants then distributed on the first three Thursdays of each month.</p>

	<p>Mother Judith has spoken to some groups about using the Church to meet but no one has yet made formal plans to use the space.</p> <p>The job description for the Parish Secretary has been updated. The job descriptions for the Sexton and Organist will also be revised/formalized for January 1st.</p>
Senior Warden's Report	A discussion was begun about leadership planning for the next year, beginning in January. It is obviously a very important time to have engaged leadership. Both Wardens are stepping down. Ginny encouraged each person to seriously consider what they would be able to do and who they might see in some of these positions.
Junior Warden's Report	Susan is unable to lead Stewardship this year and asked for people to take on this role or help to find someone who will. We need 5 or 6 people willing to work together on it. Susan is willing to share information and experience with whomever volunteers.
Report from the Profile Committee	Wayne reported on the meeting with Rich Simpson last Sunday. The goal is for the Profile to be ready for March 2021 for the Transitional Ministry Conference, but it should be largely done by the Annual Meeting in January so it can be presented to the parish.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School begins October 4th

Sunday School will be virtual again this year, coordinated by Rachel Carpenter

Here is what's new:

- The children and youth of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church-Worcester and United Parish of Upton will join us.
- On the first Sunday of each month, the churches will meet separately. Youth and children will be readers for a 9 am "family" service of Morning Prayer, followed by informal gathering separately
- On the other Sundays of the month, Sunday School will begin at 9:45 am every Sunday with a special children's prayer and homily led by one of the 3 clergy: Fr. John McGinty of St. Matthew's, Pastor Laurey Savick of United Parish of Upton, or Mother Judith.
- Class will meet 10am-10:30 am.
- Weekly family activities will be posted on our website.

Special Family Events:

October 4th – a virtual blessing of our pets.

November 1st – All Saints' Sunday

After the service youth (grades 8-11) will meet separately to discuss the questions developed by the Profile Committee.

December 6th – St. Nicholas Day celebration!

January 3rd - The Feast of the Epiphany [transferred]

Youth Group: We are working together so that our older youth can plan special projects or events. Watch for more news. We will send information about Sunday School registration and permissions by email. Please contact Rachel at Sunday.school@trinitychurchmilford.org if you have ideas, questions, or concerns.

Ecumenical Memorial Service for Victims of COVID-19
Wednesday October 28, 2020 7 pm
Livestreamed from the United Parish of Upton

The faith communities of Milford, Hopedale, Mendon, and Upton will join together for a service of remembrance honoring the lives of those who have died this year from complications of COVID-19. As part of this service, we invite individuals to share the names of people who have known – wherever they may have lived. This witness can be in the form of a video recording, a brief written tribute, a picture or photo, or music. Please send your tribute to Mother Judith at jlee.trinitychurchmilford@gmail.com or bring it to the Parish Office by **October 11th**.

Diocesan Service of Evening Prayer

The Feast of All Saints

Sunday November 1, 2020 5 pm

Mark your calendars and watch for more information.

Stewardship Month: November 2020

Our annual Stewardship Campaign will be held during the month of Thanksgiving. Watch for more information.

Blessing of the Animals: October 4th on Zoom

The four-legged members of your family are invited to the service on October 4th – the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi and the final Sunday of Creation Season.

LAUNDRY LOVE

Laundry Love at Trinity, Milford has been on sort of a sabbatical since March. I am sure you all remember that we learned how a sabbatical is "not a vacation". And the past seven months or so have not felt like a vacation! The other thing we learned about a sabbatical is that you are supposed to study, reflect, and learn something to get a sense of the direction you are going. So, Laundry Love has not been on vacation, but has not been working. Sounds like a sabbatical, so far. But what have we learned? What is our new direction? How is the Holy Spirit going to work with Laundry Love in a COVID world?

I have learned that Trinity does not have enough volunteers who want to go to the laundromats. This is not surprising during a pandemic. I ask, how do we accomplish our mission to provide help to the people who need it?

We want people to have clean clothes. Doing laundry is expensive. Money is tight in so many homes, especially now. Trinity has money set aside for Laundry Love, and we have a significant supply of soap and dryer sheets. How do we get these supplies into the community to meet increased demand? One way is to have packets made up ahead with enough supplies in each packet to wash and dry a large load or two small ones. We could give them out at community meals and Mother Judith could have some at the church to give out at her

discretion. I ask you to think about other ways Trinity can continue to reach out to those who need a helping hand by giving them access to Laundry Love, as we continue to use safe social distancing. Share your ideas with Mary Johnson or anyone on the Vestry. It is time to put Laundry Love back to work. Tell us your ideas for the future of Laundry Love. The Vestry would be interested in hearing your ideas.

SACRED GROUND

This is a group that will meet on Zoom to have small group discussions around the topic of race and faith. We will watch some films on our own, and then gather to discuss them. There is some reading we will all do as well. Then we will share our thoughts and ideas on how these texts have helped us understand our own stories better. I have spent time talking with Mother Judith about Sacred Ground, and I have studied the Episcopal Church/ Sacred Ground website and looked at the syllabus. I have watched one of the films and read one of the articles. All I can tell you so far is that I really don't know what this group will be like because it is about all of our stories, and all of our experiences. It will depend on who joins the group and what their ideas and experiences are. So, I am excited to see who joins and what we learn from talking to each other, and from listening to each other. Stories are amazing ways to learn and connect with each other.

Mother Judith and Mary Johnson will co-lead the group. We will lead five sessions between now and Thanksgiving. Each session will be offered on a Sunday afternoon and a Tuesday night every other week. After the New Year, we will resume for five more sessions. Please email or call Mother Judith or Mary Johnson if you want to join us on our journey. We will squeeze you in if you let us know very soon! Come, share your story.

COMMUNITY MEALS

On behalf of the parish I want to thank everyone who has come forward from Trinity, the Hopedale Unitarian Parish, Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church and the Milford community. These people have volunteered their time, service, and financial contributions over the last several months to assist with the community meals "Grab n Go" meals and the restaurant meals for first responders. The hundreds of people that we have been fortunate to provide meals to and the local restaurants that we have purchased meals from have been most grateful. The volunteers have found this project to be fun and gratifying. Below is a list of some of the many people who have volunteered their time and resources:

Ellen Barry, Jean Bonetti, Jody Buck, Chipotle Mexican Grill for donating a first responders meal, Dave Clinkman on behalf of the Milford Lions club, Jim Donahue, Paul Gattoni, Toni Howard, Alice Jacobson, Dwight, Allison and Emily Kee, Magee Lambert, Ben and Julie Miano, Patricia and Glen Peterson, Margee Roessler, Ginny Starkis, Kim Stochaj, Kevin and Pat Keppler, Marty Ploof, Jr., Joan Campbell, John Ellis, Sue Henley, Dave Scott, Cindi Scrimgeour, Sam and Margaret Waugh, Al Spittler of the First Unitarian Universalist Church in Milford, Lisa, Ava, and Payton Trusa, Ruth Warner, Pastor Eric Rodriguez, The Way Church, Pastor Dan Stone, First United Methodist Church of Milford, Mother Judith Lee, Reverend Steve Cook, Parishioners from Trinity, the Hopedale Unitarian Church, St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, and others who have made generous donations.

Special thanks to the Greater Milford Community Health Network (CHNA) for the grant that they have awarded us to allow us to expand and continue this ministry through the end of November.

Each month, May through August, your generous donations allowed us to order meals from local restaurants to be delivered to our frontline workers at Milford Memorial Regional Hospital; the US Postal office workers in Milford; sales associates at Stop and Shop, Price Chopper (Hopkinton); Lowes; and the staff at Whitcomb House and Cornerstone Senior Living Residences.

This program evolved out of a desire by a handful of volunteers from Trinity, the Hopedale Unitarian Parish, Sacred Heart and others in the community during the early days of the pandemic to express our thanks to the first responders and to assist our neighbors who are facing food insecurity (many for the first time due to the economic impact of the pandemic). Over the last few months the program has grown. The grant from the Greater Milford Community Health Network (CHNA) has allowed us to expand “Grab n Go” meals from one meal a month procured from a local restaurant to providing weekly “Grab n Go meals” every Thursday from 4:30 to 6PM (or whenever we run out of food). The “Grab n Go” meals have increased from 40 meals once a month to 70 meals per week. By the end of November, we expect to have served over 1,000 meals.

Please contact Glen Peterson or Mother Judith if you are able to volunteer on Thursdays between 3 and 6 pm. [Note: We will prepare takeout meals in our kitchen on the last Thursday of every month – next on October 29th. Please contact Ruth Warner to see how you can help.]

The community “Grab n Go” meals program is funded through the end of November. We are seeking grant funding and donations to continue the program through next spring. The CHNA grant does not include meals provided in gratitude to first responders. To contribute to this project, please send your check payable to Trinity Church with *Community Dinners* on the memo line.

Thank you again for your support and please consider joining with us to provide this much-needed service to our community at this time of need.

Glen Peterson

PROFILE COMMITTEE REPORT

Profile Committee: Leigh Martin, Chair; David Clinkman, Wayne Stochaj, Mary Beth Sweet, and Peach Warren

The Profile Committee has met twice since September 12th to begin crafting the Profile that will describe Trinity Church for clergy seeking a new congregation. We have chosen the Scripture passage that will guide us throughout the search process:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge God, and God will make straight your paths. – Proverbs 3:5-6

We felt that these verses affirm the Trinity community's collective trust in God as we unite to undertake this work, and they provide comfort in uncertain times, knowing that our paths will be made straight if we look to the Lord for guidance.

We have also scheduled five parish meetings to be held in October so that all our voices will be part of the Profile.

As a congregation, we have been in focus groups (the Zoom meetings back in June) and filled out the Congregation Assessment Tool survey (the online survey we took in August) to discuss and define our views of our Church community and where we would like to see Trinity Church in the future.

Now we need to come together to paint the picture of who we, Trinity Church, Milford, are and what gifts and ministries define us. We encourage your participation in the upcoming meetings and appreciate your feedback as we engage in this important undertaking.

Please mark your calendars: All meetings will be on Zoom:

- Monday October 12th 7:30- 8:30 pm– Vestry
- Tuesday October 20th – 7:30-8:30 pm the choir, altar guild, and liturgical ministers
- Sunday October 25th 9:30-10:30 am – general
- Wednesday October 28th – 10:30-11:30 am - general
- Sunday November 1st -9:30 am – 10:30 am – Youth

The Profile Committee will meet weekly during this month. Our tasks will be to define the discussion questions, to gather information and photos that show our different ministries for our website, and to synthesize the conversations that we will have during these meetings. We are grateful for your support and look forward to seeing you soon.

NewsLetter DEADLINE

Just a reminder that the deadline for submissions for the November edition of *The Trinitarian* is October 15th. Please honor this deadline. Content that is submitted late may not make it into the newsletter. All articles should be sent to: news@trinitychurchmilford.org.



From the Editor

Thank you for all the prayers and well wishes I received during recovery from knee surgery. All is well and on track and I will be back at work on October 5th. In the meantime, I am enjoying the mental break from work and despite the lack of rain, the warm sunshine in September is a blessing.

Elizabeth Kfisiewicz, Editor
news@trinitychurchmilford.org

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Worship Schedule	Wednesday, 9am Saturday, 5pm Sunday, 8am and 10am

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