



Volume 6, Issue 5
2021
MAY

The Trinity Times



Her Hands

Her hands held me gently from the day I took my first breath.
Her hands helped to guide me as I took my first step.
Her hands held me close when the tears would start to fall.
Her hands were quick to show me that she would take care of it all.
Her hands were there to brush my hair, or straighten a wayward bow.
Her hands were often there to comfort the hurts that didn't always show.
Her hands helped hold the stars in place, and encouraged me to reach.
Her hands would clap and cheer and praise when I captured them at length.
Her hands would also push me, though not down or in harm's way.
Her hands would punctuate the words, just do what I say.
Her hands sometimes had to discipline, to help bend this young tree.
Her hands would shape and mold me into all she knew I could be.
Her hands are now twisting with age and years of work,
Her hand now needs my gentle touch to rub away the hurt.
Her hands are more beautiful than anything can be.
Her hands are the reason I am me.

Maggie Pittman



Live & Zoom Worship...

On Easter Sunday, Trinity returned to "live" worship services at 10:30. Masks and social distancing are still practiced to keep us all safe. All are welcome to attend either the live service or the 9:15 Zoom Service and/or 10:30 Adult Sunday School. Currently all other activities -- Bible Study, and Team Meetings are on "Zoom". Active Trinity members are receiving weekly emails or mailed letters (for those without emails) with information on how to be part of these services. If you are not receiving this information, please contact Pastor Lynn (717-514-0302) or Carol Hollich (717-838-2812) to make sure we have your current mailing information.



Dear Trinity,
Just a note to thank everyone for your cards, calls and well-wishes during my recent hospital stay. Your support and prayers are much appreciated.

It's good to be home. I'm working to get my strength back and hope to see you all soon.

Love, Barb Querry

To the Trinity Congregation...

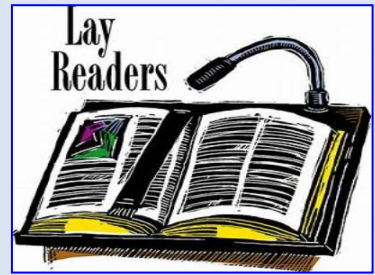
Thank you for the beautiful geranium planter. Once again, you are so wonderfully generous with me. With love and gratefulness,

Carol Yeagley



<u>Date</u>	<u>9:15 Zoom Service</u>	<u>10:30 Live Service</u>
May 2	Gloria Clark	Betsy Allwein
May 9	Carol Hollich	Caroline Jacobs
May 16	Karen Neblock	John Carter
May 23	Dea Kishpaugh	Keith Earle
May 30	Reba Sterner	Phyllis Carter

If you are unable to serve as lay reader, please call... 717-838-2812.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 6	Mary Earle
May 7	Natalina Harrison
May 7	Sue Hinkley
May 14	Mark Fortna
May 20	Luke Earle
May 23	Tiffany DeJesus
May 29	Marilyn Smith



Our Spring Bible Study series continues on ZOOM on Thursday mornings at 10:30. The log-in information can be found on Trinity's Facebook page or by calling the study leader, Rick Clark.

The study text is *Words of Life: Jesus and the Ten Commandments Today* by Adam Hamilton. Any and all are invited to join in this lively and stimulating look at how Jesus is alive in our world today.

Don't forget to drop your Redner's Receipts into the box provided in the parlor or put them into envelope and mail to Kitty Fair. Even if you don't shop at Redner's, perhaps a friend or family member does... those receipts add up and are an easy way to generate a little extra income for the church! Every time we receive a check from Redner's, it is over \$100!



2021 Annual Conference

May 20-22

Using a theme of "**Come to the Water**," the Eastern PA Conference will celebrate the ministry of baptism and confirmation during Annual Conference 2021. Pastor Lynn, Gloria Clark, and Carol and George Hollich will represent Trinity at the Conference which for the 2nd year will be held via Zoom. On Thursday the Clergy and Laity will conduct business in separate sessions and Friday's full day's session will be held as a Zoom webinar for all voting members. All members will use a computer or tablet to vote on legislation using Zoom's polling feature, Non-voting members will again be able to view the session livestreamed on the Conference's Facebook page. On Saturday, May 22, the Conference will be held at Olivet UMC in Coatesville for a Memorial Service to remember deceased clergy and clergy spouses, followed by its Service of Commissioning and Ordination. Only families of the deceased honorees and families of clergy to be commissioned and ordained will attend the two back-to-back services onsite.

Adult Sunday School – May



This month we conclude the theme of the Spring Quarter, **PROPHETS FAITHFUL TO GOD'S COVENANT** with a series of lessons about the “*Courageous Prophets of Change*.” At the center of the prophetic message is a call to repentance and change, and our May lessons focus on the necessity and possibility of these. The prophets Micaiah and Jeremiah courageously spoke truth to powerful individuals who were unwilling to acknowledge and act on that truth. On the other hand, our last lesson in May narrates a positive response to a prophetic message on the part of a most unlikely audience: the wicked non-Israelite city of Nineveh. (Some of you probably remember when our young folk presented the musical on this theme -- *You Can't Run Away from the Lord*. The forgiving response from the Lord in the light of that repentance certainly contradicts the contention that the God of the Old Testament was solely a God of wrath.

In another of our lessons the prophet Isaiah denounces Judah as a people who “come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me”. Nevertheless, Isaiah anticipates a transformation that will come when the Lord acts to change the people, a change he compares to the deaf hearing and the blind seeing. Ezekiel says that our path to transformation begins in repentance. Our May discussions about *Courageous Prophets of Change* are entitled...

May 2	Speaking Truth to Power	1 Kings 22:15–23, 26–28	George Hollich
May 9	Offering Hope for the Future	Isaiah 29:13–24	George Hollich
May 16	Preaching Doom	Jeremiah 38:14–23	Betsy Allwein
May 23	Preaching to the Exiles	Ezekiel 18:1–9, 30–32	Lorri Umberger & Marilyn Smith
May 30	Preaching to Enemies	Jonah 3	George Hollich

Too often we feel that our actions affect just us. But, our actions have always been like a stone thrown into the still waters of a pond. It creates ripples, and those ripples spread out on the surface of the water. The Bible tells us that the sins we commit are like adding leaven (old, fermented dough) to a barrel of flour. Soon, the whole barrel is polluted. Jesus warned his disciples to beware the Leaven of the pharisees who preached the right things but did not practice what they preached. Likewise, our actions spread out in time. The prophet Isaiah said, “The parents have eaten sour grapes and set the children’s teeth on edge.” And Moses warned that the sins of the fathers are visited upon the children’s children, to the 3rd and 4th generation. If Moses were alive today, he might say that sins are like nuclear waste, they are hard to handle, for a long, long time!

Some would say that , “God never changes his mind! When God says something it true forever.” According to the Bible, the first part of that statement is absolutely true. God does not get-up in the morning and say, “What am I going to do today?” God knows the end of a thing from the beginning. However, According to the Bible, the second part is not true, for people in different generations perceive the same subject in very different ways. Consider the dietary laws of the Old Testament. Moses told the children of Israel not to eat shrimp and oysters and and pork because he wanted them to be different, and stand out in the world as God’s people! But when God cast a wider net—and set his sights on winning the world to Christ, these dietary regulations no longer served the same purpose. So, join us in May as we discuss ***Courageous Prophets of Change***...

May 2

1. Micaiah saw “all Israel ... like _____ without a _____.” 1 Kings 22:17
2. A spirit promised to protect King Ahab. T/F. 1 Kings 22:22

May 9

1. The people were near the Lord in their hearts but far away in mouth and lips. T/F. Isaiah 29:13
2. Isaiah prophesied that the blind would see out of what? (darkness, light, glass) Isaiah 29:18

May 16

1. Jeremiah told a king to surrender to the Egyptians to be spared. T/F. Jeremiah 38:17
2. If the king didn’t surrender to the enemy, Jerusalem would be burned. T/F. Jeremiah 38:21, 23

May 23

1. The people blamed their ancestors by quoting a proverb involving sour _____. Ezekiel 18:2
2. The people needed a new what? (pick two: attitude, command, heart, spirit) Ezekiel 18:31

May 30

1. Jonah was called to preach in what great city? (Babylon, Nineveh, Jerusalem) Jonah 3:2
2. The city in which Jonah preached was prophesied to be destroyed in how many days? (666, 40, 3) Jonah 3:4

Administrative Council Meeting via Zoom April 11, 2021 - 1:00 pm - Minutes



Facilitator: George Hollich

Minutes: Carol Hollich (*summary to appear in the May newsletter*)

Attendance via Zoom: Gloria Clark, Joyce Dissinger, Gail Emrich, Elmer Fair, Kitty Fair, Pastor Lynn Hackman, Carol Hollich, George Hollich, Dea Kishpaugh, Jack Kishpaugh, Marilyn Smith, Reba Sterner, Jack Stouffer, Dave & Barb Walleth. Carol Yeagley **Excused:** Sally DeJesus, Barb Querry, Lorri Umberger

Housekeeping – Attendance, Approval of Past Minutes & Agenda

Devotions – BELIEVE YOUR LIFE HAS PURPOSE - Luke 4:40-44.

Calendar Dates that Reflect our Ministry

Other than the 10:30 Live Worship Service, the 9:15 Worship Service, 10:30 Adult Sunday School, and all Committee meetings will be done via ZOOM, unless other arrangements are announced.

May 9 – Mothers Day

May 20-22 – Annual Conference

June 13 – Ad Board - 1pm

Discussion - Current or Emerging Projects that Clarify Our Ministry

Second Sunday Servicing – It was suggested that perhaps we could provide bag lunches on a day when LCCCM does not provide them. We need to have a person willing to take a course on food prep and rules (paid for by the church) before we can serve meals on site.

Bible Studies – Rick Clark is leading a Thursday morning study on the Ten Commandments. All are welcome to join in this discussion group. George also mentioned that the conference is conducting prayer services and courses via Zoom that all are welcome to attend. Contact George for more information.

Communications - Gloria Clark is working on a new church website that will be hosted by **Square Space** and it is progressing slowly. She would like additional people to help and add items as they become available. She also suggested several workshops that could be attended on communications. See Gloria or George if you would like more information on any of these workshops or be willing to assist Gloria in the development and maintenance of the website.

LINKS – The Lebanon Methodist churches provided Wednesday night service messages during Lent and a Good Friday service with all of the churches participating. They were well received. Several of the Lebanon churches involved in LINKS will be getting new pastors, and our new Bishop as of September 1st will be Bishop John Schol. The conference will have a Zoom celebration for our current bishop, Peggy Johnson, as she retires to head the deaf ministry of the United Methodist church.

Rental of Church Spaces – There are no outside groups renting space in our building at this time. We have a few cars on the lot all week. We will have to let their owners know there is no parking in the lot on Sundays unless they have a permit.

Return to live activities – Since the Worship Team had to postpone their meeting until the following week and did not have a recommendation as to a schedule for a return to live activities in the Church, there was limited discussion about the live and zoom services and ideas about new programs. These ideas were passed on to the Worship committee, as well as the need to seek congregational input.

New ideas – Pastor Lynn wants us to think what new projects (or previous projects) we can work on to help make us a vital church. She spoke about Rescue.org an organization that brings food to the hungry and poor. She is still thinking about having a clothing thrift shop. Gloria had a number of ideas for consideration -- adopt a family, be a foster grandparent, create a listening post, migrant ministry, gifts for front line workers and teachers, zoom tutoring, a prayer hotline, studio space at the church, and an on-site coffee shop perhaps on Friday nights (include tea and hot chocolate). Now we need someone who could lead some of these ideas!



Highlights from Reports that Support Our Mission

Worship Team – Carol Hollich - We have started live services and will see at Tuesday's meeting what needs added, subtracted, or improved. The organ was tuned but the pastor thinks the tuner needs to return to fine tune it. However, it was noted that the strange fluctuating weather could be the problem. We will be getting the piano tuned since it is time to take care of this fine instrument. We thank Jim Allwein for being willing to pay for the tuning. The zoom worship has had good attendance so far, but will lessen as more people return to the live service. We will discuss Mother's Day flowers, new schedule of sermons, Father's Day, and communion at our meeting on Tuesday, April 13. **(The next meeting will be Thursday, June 3 at 7:00.)**

Education – Sally DeJesus – no report

Finance – Barb Query (read by George) – There is \$8,815.00 in the checking account and \$17,606.00 in the money market. The Capital Campaign has \$175,121.00, which mostly comes from the sale of the parsonage. We will be getting funds from 2 estates. We did purchase a Comcast booster for the sanctuary and 2 laptop computers for the 2 offices. The district retirement pension plan is finally funded by current monies and not behind in funds dating back to the 1960's.



Missions – Dea Kishpaugh – April we took 132 pounds of food to LCCM. In April we also provided 14 birthday bags to the residents at Cornwall Manor Health Center. The bags contained a card, Kleenex, and Ghirardelli candies.

Parish Visitor – Lori Grandi – no report

Staff Parish – Reba Sterner – We welcome our new financial secretary, Mary Gruber and we thank Mary, Keith Earle, Deb Ludwig, and Barb Query for the time involved in the transition process.

Trustees – Jack Kishpaugh – Dave Wallett fixed the broken church parking lot sign and the trustees will install it next week. We decided to hold off on turning off the heat until the warmer weather is here to stay.

Pastor Lynn – Pastor Lynn says we need to discuss what Trinity will be doing to keep going in the years to come. We will have to start discussing whether we want to be a reconciling church and accept everyone including the LGBTQ+ community. Some of us noted that we are already a welcoming church, but need to let it be known. Some churches have become more conservative, which is also a choice to make in the future. We could perhaps ask the Spanish community if they have a need to have a service in our church. We also could discuss once again combining with another downtown church. (The pastor had discussed this with 6 of the Lebanon pastors a while back with no results, but with all the new pastors, we could try again.) It was also discussed to do a take-out lunch for the needy on a Sunday (which is the Second Sunday Serving). However, we would need leaders and helpers for that.



George reminded the Ad Board that in spite of the challenges and opportunities that will be part of the future, we need also be in the moment and be grateful for what we have today -- our congregation continues to faithfully support our mission projects; there are about 50 individuals who are part of either the Zoom or live service each week; and all bills are paid and up-to-date! Praise the Lord!

The pastor closed the meeting with a prayer.

3:00 Adjournment

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: June 13 at 1:00

(Ad Board Meeting Schedule - February, April, June, August, October, December)

Study Texts: 1 Kings 22:1–40

KEY VERSE: Micaiah said, “As surely as the LORD lives, I can tell him only what the LORD tells me.” –1 Kings 22:14



Truth Distorted

Have you ever sought out counsel that would tell you what you want to hear, rather than truth, so that you could press forward with your own agenda? Herein is an important lesson we can learn from George Washington.

As the first president of the United States, Washington had no precedent to follow when choosing the men who would shape his thinking and the new government.

Wisely, Washington chose an eclectic group of people to fill cabinet positions and be his closest advisers. They were from different parts of the country, and they had different views on how the government should operate. Instead of choosing advisers exclusively from his state of Virginia, Washington chose to surround himself with people who had the same ultimate goals in mind. The varied opinions about how to achieve common goals helped President Washington make choices that were more informed and wiser. Unfortunately, Ahab did not make similar decisions. He surrounded himself with false prophets who told him whatever he wanted to hear. But this lesson focuses on the one prophet who refused to compromise the truth.

“What Do You Want to Hear?”

I like to ask my mom for her opinion. Generally, I ask her about something small, like which shoes look better. I hear my mom’s opinion and her reasons, but I am very quick to choose the other option. I do this because I already know what I want to hear; I just want someone else to agree with me. At this point, Mom essentially refuses to give me a real answer. She knows that I will disregard it and do what I want. Can you blame her? After my asking year after year what shoes look best and almost always choosing the other ones, why would she bother giving me her real opinion?

It’s hard to blame Micaiah for his response to Ahab. Much like my mom, Micaiah was exhausted from telling Ahab God’s sovereign truth just to have it ignored in the face of what Ahab wanted to do all along. How often do we ask God for his truth, find it, and promptly choose what we wanted to hear instead of what he said? It’s time to start following God’s truth instead of merely asking for it.

Quantity over Quality

When I was younger, I stayed with my grandparents for a week. My grandma was not feeling very well, and a confidante convinced her that I was a very disrespectful child. My grandma reported this to my parents. I was in a lot of trouble, but I continued to defend what I knew to be true. I was innocent of these charges!

Due largely to my grandparents’ position of authority, they were initially believed. However, my aunt had also spent time with me that week. She advocated for me and presented the truth to my parents. I was released from my punishment. Micaiah was the small, lone voice of truth. Since that truth did not align with the majority of authoritative voices, he was placed in prison. In the world today, voices tell us lies every day. But truth is still truth, and we can heed its voice if we desire. What crowds are preventing you from heeding God’s truth?

- 1. How can we avoid giving guidance to others that is actually in our best interests?**
- 2. What are some proper ways to react to those who expect us to tell them what they want to hear rather than what they need to hear?**
- 3. What can you do, if anything, to prepare in advance for times of trouble?**

Trinity United Methodist Church

757 Willow Street, Lebanon, Pa. 17046

Where *“Faith, Hope and Love abide to encourage all to respond to the call of Christ.”*

May 2, 2021 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

(The service begins at 9:15 with the fellowship area opening at 9:00.

To be a part of worship on the computer go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82274599017>
or join by phone by dialing 1-646-876-9923 and entering 822 7459 9017 when prompted.)

Welcome

Lay Leader: George Hollich

Prelude: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness - Runyan*

Organist: Caroline Jacobs

Call to Worship

Liturgist: Gloria Clark

L: Like a whisper that lures us to safety,

P: Strong as a shout that bids us to come,

L: Gentle as a prayer that eases our worry,

P: Like a clear bell that rings out our name,

L: Your Word comes to us, Loving God.

P: It calls us, comforts us and urges us to depart from evil and do good, to seek peace and pursue it.

L: Talking God, open our hearts to hear you

P: And free our voices to praise you.



Hymn #2236

Gather Us In

Marty Haugen

Here in this place new light is streaming, Now is the darkness vanished away
See in this space our fears and our dreamings, Brought here to you in the light of this day
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken, Gather us in, the blind and the lame
Call to us now and we shall awaken, We shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery, We are the old who yearn for your face
We have been sung throughout all of history, Called to be light to the whole human race
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty, Gather us in, the proud and the strong
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly, Give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water, Here we will take the bread of new birth
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, Call us anew to be salt for the earth
Give us to drink the wine of compassion, Give us to eat the bread that is you
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion, Lives that are holy and hearts that are true

Not in the dark of buildings confining, Not in some heaven light years away
But here in this place the new light is shining, Now is the kingdom, now is the day
Gather us in and hold us forever, Gather us in and make us your own
Gather us in, all peoples together, Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Pastor Lynn Hackman

Musical Meditation

Give Me Jesus

arr. Howard Helvey

Celebration of Gifts

Pastor Lynn Hackman

(Your offerings can be sent to Trinity UMC, 757 Willow Street, Lebanon, PA 17046)

Hymn #571

Go Make of All Disciples

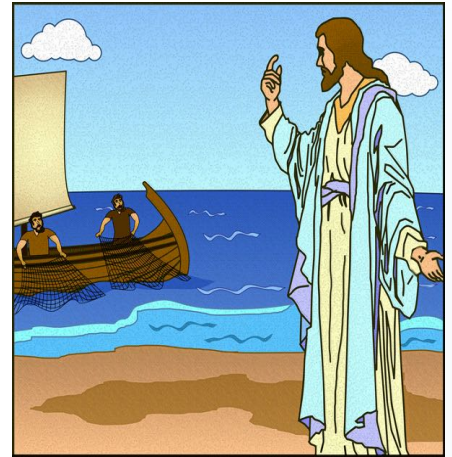
Henry Smart

Go make of all disciples, we hear the call oh Lord
That comes from Thee our Father in Thy eternal word.
Inspire our ways of learning through earnest fervent prayer
And let our daily living reveal Thee everywhere.

Go make of all disciples, baptizing in the name
Of Father, Son, and Spirit from age to age the same.
We call each new disciple to follow Thee, o Lord
Redeeming soul and body by water and the Word.

Go make of all disciples, we at Thy feet would stay
Until each life's vocation accents Thy holy way.
We cultivate the nature God plants in every heart
Revealing in our witness the master teacher's art.

Go make of all disciples, we welcome Thy command
Lo I am with you always, we take Thy guiding hand.
The task looms large before us, we follow without fear
In heaven and earth Thy power shall bring God's kingdom here.



Old Testament

Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-8

Liturgist: Gloria Clark

New Testament

Acts 8: 26-40

Sermon

What Don't You Understand?

Pastor Lynn Hackman

Holy Communion

Pastor Lynn Hackman

Benediction

L: Go now. It's your call.

P: We go to proclaim God's word. We are the heralds of Christ.

L: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and fellowship in the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

Announcements

Social Time



**Sunday School – *Speaking Truth to Power*
1 Kings 22:15-23,26-28**