



April, 2017

PATHWAYS

Monthly communications from Trinity Presbyterian

Message From Pastor Deb



Dear Trinity Friends,

We are fast approaching one of the holiest times of our church year together. On April 9, we will celebrate Palm Sunday, remembering Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Then, on Maundy Thursday we will celebrate Jesus' last supper with his disciples. Please enter into this journey with us as we follow Jesus toward Jerusalem, the cross, and finally into the joy of Jesus' resurrection on Easter morning!

We will also celebrate new members at Trinity in April. We will welcome our confirmands into full membership of the church on April 2. Then, adult new members will then be received the following Sunday on April 9. We are excited to welcome them into our family.

Great news! Trinity received a 20,000 grant from the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area for a ministry initiative called "Growing Young." This will involve a church assessment, training of key leaders and coaching from seminary faculty. We will also be updating the sound and media in the sanctuary. Stay tuned for more on the Growing Young Ministry Initiative in the months ahead.

Finally, the nominating committee is receiving your recommendations for our next class of elders and deacons. The committee will present their nominations which will be voted upon by the congregation at a called congregational meeting in late May or early June, after the nominees have been contacted and have agreed to serve. In the Presbyterian Church, "Christ's ministry and standard for all ministry, the pattern for the one who came 'not to be served but to serve'." (Book of Order, G-2.0101). Submit your recommendations to Dan Freeman at dffreeman@comcast.net.

Wishing you a blessed April!

Pastor Deb

Worship Schedule

April 2 Confirmation Sunday with Communion

April 9 Palm Sunday--"King Jesus", Deb K preaching

April 13 Maundy Thursday-- Deb K preaching

April 16 Easter Sunday--"He is Alive!" - Deb K preaching

April 23 "Doubt & Faith" - Resurrection Stories, Deb K preaching

April 30 "Do You Love Me?" - Resurrection Stories, Deb K preaching



Why is the Resurrection Important?

Most of the gospel messages we hear today focus on the good news that Christ died for our sins. In comparison we speak relatively little about Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Yet the resurrection is also part of the good news! In fact, the resurrection was the central truth of the early apostles preaching. Unfortunately, our modern day focus on the cross can cause the significance of the resurrection to get lost in the shuffle. You might know why Jesus died, but at the same time wonder what difference it makes in your life that Jesus was raised from the dead.

Does the resurrection matter? What would life be like if Jesus were not raised? Sadly, the cross would have been a brutal end to Jesus life and his death would have been in vain. The powers of oppression and evil would have

triumphed once again. Jesus' claims that he would rise again would have been a lie. His bones would be buried in the earth along with those of Buddha, Confucius, Buddha, Mohammed and Lenin. The disciples would have been disillusioned and disheartened and most likely would have scattered. And we would have no assurance of life after death and no proof that Jesus was any more than a teacher and healer.

But, Jesus did not stay in the tomb. His bones are not on this earth. The disciples were astonished as they saw and touched and talked and ate with the risen Jesus. Hundreds of others witnessed the risen Lord as well. The fact that he rose ignited his followers because it proved that everything Jesus said and claimed was true. Even death could not hold him! Unlike all other religious founders, Jesus is divine. They gave their lives to proclaim this truth, suffering martyrs deaths. Certainly, the disciples were convinced.

What difference does the resurrection mean for us today? It means that love finally does win. Death does not have the last say. The powers of oppression and evil will not triumph in the end. And we can be assured that there is life beyond the grave in Christ.

Jesus is alive. Still. He ascended after forty days and is now reigning at the right hand of his Father. He promises to return again. But in the meantime, we can still meet him. He has sent the Holy Spirit that we might have a deeply personal relationship with Him even today. Jesus is still alive, teaching, healing, calling, leading and bringing life out of death. Throughout the centuries, millions of people have met Jesus Christ and their lives have never been the same.

Update from Children & Youth Ministry

Joa Sevlie

Spring is in the air! For a CE director, that means the winding down of programming, and the evaluation of the past year, with a focus on improving the next year. For me, that means I will look anew at Trinity's CE program goals and ask how we have done this year:

1. We are Christ-centered

There are many organizations out there that add to the character or life-development of its participants. However, as a church, our reasons for why we do what we do are as important as what we do. In other words, as we bring healing and hope to a world that is hurting, are we doing so because, as Christians, we have been changed by our relationship with God? God is after our hearts - just doing a 'good thing' is hollow unless we also share with the participant how a relationship with God is our primary focus.

2. We are transformed

A hope for our children and youth here at Trinity is that through participation in our programming, they will be changed in their relationship with God.

3. We are world-changers

Jesus intended that the Church would bring his message of love, forgiveness, and reconciliation to the world. Our goal for the children and youth of Trinity is that they will be filled with the passion to do so.

April Mission of the Month:

One Great Hour of Sharing

Throughout April, Trinity will be collecting contributions to this special offering that helps the Presbyterian Church USA serve people in need both in the U.S. and around the world. Our offerings assist in the areas of hunger programs, disaster relief, and the self-development of people.

Old Testament believers expressed their love of God by fasting - not eating for a prescribed time. However, the prophet Isaiah gives us these words from God about fasting in chapter 58:6-7:

Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?"

Clearly, we are called to help those in need! By joining our resources together and placing them in the hands of those who minister through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Self-Development of People, much can be accomplished to improve the lives of our brothers and sisters. In doing so, we are also sharing the love of God.

Please prayerfully consider a gift in April to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. You may use the special OGHS envelope or the Mission of the Month envelope found in the pews and please write in "OGHS" and your name.

Mission News



Our Children's Offering is supporting a new student in Niger!

For the past several years, the Children's Offering has paid for a sponsorship of student Balkissa Issoufou attending a school supported by Remember Niger Coalition. Balkissa recently passed her national exams and became eligible to attend secondary school. As a result of her success, her relatives have committed to taking on her school expenses. This is very exciting because it will prevent her from the likely fate of becoming a child bride and mother. Her education will raise the earning power of herself and her family. We have committed to being her "safety net" should

problems arise in her financial support.

Our children now have a new student to get to know and assist on a path for a great education and opportunities! Our newly sponsored student is Hanatou Garba, a kindergartner. She lives with her parents and 5 siblings. She is particularly enjoying learning how to write and draw, and loves to play futbol (soccer). Her other studies are math, reading, history, science and French. French is the language of government and commerce in Niger. Learning it opens many doors for the students who graduate from Remember Niger supported schools. The teachers are dedicated Christian Nigeriens who are sharing God's love, teaching Muslim and Christian children side by side. Please pray for Balkissa, Hanatou, and their families, as well as the teachers and Remember Niger Coalition staff.

Bible Study

Wednesday Night Bible Study Schedule

April 5 Chapter 26 "The Hour of Darkness"

April 12 No Class

April 19 Chapter 27 "The Resurrection"

April 26 Chapter 23 "Jesus' Ministry Begins"

May 3 Chapter 31 "The End of Time" End of Bible Study

US BANK STADIUM TOUR - MAY 1

Our own Tom Rooney will be giving us a tour of US Bank Stadium. As you probably know, the Super Bowl is coming to US Bank Stadium next February and you have an opportunity to enjoy an in-depth tour of the newest stadium in the NFL. We have set up a Trinity Group tour for Monday, May 1, at 1:30. The tour will last 90 minutes. The tour will include the locker room, the art collection, club seats, suites and a look at the media interview room and press box.



The cost for this tour is \$14.00 per person.

Sign up in the Welcome Room asap as the number of tickets are limited to 20-25.

If you have questions, please contact Barb Freeman, bcbfreeman@comcast.net. Or, Tom Rooney, tirooney626@aol.com.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The office hours are:
Tuesday - Thursday,
9:00 am - 4:00 pm