

THE BELFRY

Trinity Episcopal Church | Wethersfield, CT

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Services

Worship services for Monday through Friday and Sunday will continue to be recorded until further notice. These services can be accessed on Trinity's website trinityepiscopalweth.org

Our outdoor Evening Prayer service will continue each Sunday at 4 pm in the parking lot. Please remember to bring your chair and mask.

Please leave a contact number at the office if you want to participate in our live ZOOM Morning Prayer on Wednesdays.

From Our Pastor

For you were called to freedom brethren; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love be servants of one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'. But if you bite and devour one another take heed that you are not consumed by one another.

Galatians 5:13-15

Dear Trinity Family,

The annual celebration of July 4th is an invitation to reflect on the gifts and responsibilities of freedom. It is also an occasion for connecting our patriotic impulses with the imperatives of our Christian faith.

In American history, the word 'freedom' has been interpreted differently and applied selectively. Thomas Jefferson, the author of these stirring words, *We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness*, was himself the owner of hundreds of slaves and continued to be so for his entire life. He, along with many others in our history, did not grant to others the unalienable rights he claimed for himself.

In the 244 years since those words were written, we have struggled as a nation to live up to the ideals we advertise. Sometimes we get it right and sometimes not. We have taken three steps forward and two steps back many times.

We are now living in a time in which there is increased awareness of the disparities between our ideals and realities 'on the ground', particularly as it relates to the treatment of racial minority communities by police. The protests that have expressed the outrage of recent murders of black men and women by police have been widespread and intense. And tensions have arisen between those who disagree about the substance and the methods of the protests.

(continued on page 2)



"...a lamp unto my feet and a light to my path." Psalm 119:105

Readings

July 5

Proper 9

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-29, 58-67

Psalm 45:10-17

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 12

Proper 10

Genesis 25:10-19a

Psalm 119:105-112

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 19

Proper 11

Genesis 28:10-19a

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 26

Proper 12

Genesis 29:15-28

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

(FROM OUR PASTOR continued from page 1)

It is no exaggeration to say that things are at a boiling point in our society and could get worse before they get better.

The question for us as Christians is this: What role will we play in our current cultural moment? The words of Saint Paul in Galatians are prescient and prophetic for our time. *"But if you bite and devour one another take heed that you are not consumed by one another."*

We all have a choice in this time. How will we use the precious gift of God-given freedom? How will we use our words and our behavior to impact our society with the reality of the Kingdom of God? Again, Saint Paul's words are relevant:

"For you were called to freedom brethren; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love be servants of one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

The greatest danger to our society right now is not COVID-19 or economic depression. The greatest danger is that we will destroy ourselves through mutual disrespect and the behaviors which flow from it. We have freedom, but freedom can be misused for our own destruction.

The most patriotic thing anyone can do in this present moment is to do what Jesus tells us to do: *"Love your neighbor as yourself"* and to be what Jesus told us we must be: *"Blessed are the peacemakers"*.

I wish you all a happy and joyful and patriotic July 4th celebration infused with the love of Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Tom

Words From Our Wardens



For, where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am also.

Matthew 18:20

On Sunday, June 28, 35 parishioners of Trinity gathered in the back parking lot with their masks, gloves, chairs and thankfulness in their hearts to be able to worship together again after so many weeks apart. Every guideline from the State and ECCT was followed and, despite the social distancing and distant highway sounds, we worshiped and gave thanks to the Lord. Even the impending rain held until we were finished. Resident musicians Sal and J.R. provided music while Father Tom and Father Darryl provided our service. Our community has begun to come back together again and we are deeply thankful.

Rebecca, Warren and Connie



Prayer, Mike Moyers, 2014

Visiting the Office during the Pandemic

In compliance with State guidelines and for the well-being of Linda and all who enter, we ask that if you plan to visit the Parish Office for any reason, *please wear a mask and gloves. Please assume someone will be in the office whenever you choose to go.* The office is used even when Linda is not there. Thank you for your caring and support.



A woman baking bread,
Jean-Francois Millet, 1854

Parish Leadership

PASTOR

The Rev. Thomas Furrer
For a pastoral emergency,
please call 860-212-6994.

CURATE

The Rev. Darryl Burke

STAFF

Linda Rubera, Administrator
Tuesday-Thursday, 9-12
operations@trinityepiscopalweth.org
860-529-6825

Dorothy LaBelle, Music Director
Nick Tracano, Sexton

VESTRY

Warren Blessing, Co-Warden
Connie Harasymiw, Co-Warden
Robert Heath, Treasurer
Leslie Jones, Clerk
Greg Joseph
Tina LaMorte
Cheryl Lewis
Rebecca Scruton, Co-Warden
J. R. Stanko
Ann Marie Stavola
Linda Traue

Outreach to Local, Regional and Worldwide Communities

South Park Inn

In line with social distancing guidelines, we cannot bring donations to South Park Inn. We can, however, donate financially online at southparkinn.org/donate or, if you prefer to send a check, make it payable to 'South Park Inn' and mail to: South Park Inn, Office of Development, 75 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106.

Wethersfield Food Bank

Although we can't donate and deliver food to the Wethersfield Food Bank during the pandemic, many of us still want to help feed people who are hungry. The good news is that you can donate to the Wethersfield Department of Social Services Food Bank and Special Needs Fund. This fund is used to assist residents with different needs in addition to food insecurities. Simply mail a check to Town Hall, Attn. Wethersfield Food Bank, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, CT 06109.

Our Syrian American Family

Here again, following the guidelines of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT) for COVID-19, we cannot take groceries and personal care items to the family we support. So far, parishioners have brought cash and items like toilet paper to Marilyn's home, and she is able to safely deliver it to the family.

Hands on Hartford

Hands on Hartford used our gift for the Community Crisis Fund which was established to enable them to continue to help the most vulnerable folks in the community as they address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Checks payable to Hands on Hartford can be mailed to 55 Bartholomew Ave., Hartford, CT 06106.

Community Dinners

Since Community Meals at Christ Church Cathedral have moved to the Hands on Hartford facility on Bartholomew Street, we now refer to the meals we support as "Community Dinners."

Our next dinner will be on July 27. In the last few weeks, we have had a very successful response to our food requests. We will be in contact for deliver/pickup times soon. Since we received many cash donations for this event, we will also make a cash donation from the church and reserve some money for our next dinner in September.

If you are not on the distribution list for Community Meals and would like to receive emails, please let Lynda or Warren Blessing know by emailing ctvalleywc@yahoo.com or calling 860-742-3253.

Lunch in the Park

We're scheduled to provide lunches for people who are hungry in Bushnell Park on August 1. As of this writing, the Cathedral is still not doing Church by the Pond services because of COVID-19 but they do distribute bagged lunches on Saturday afternoons.

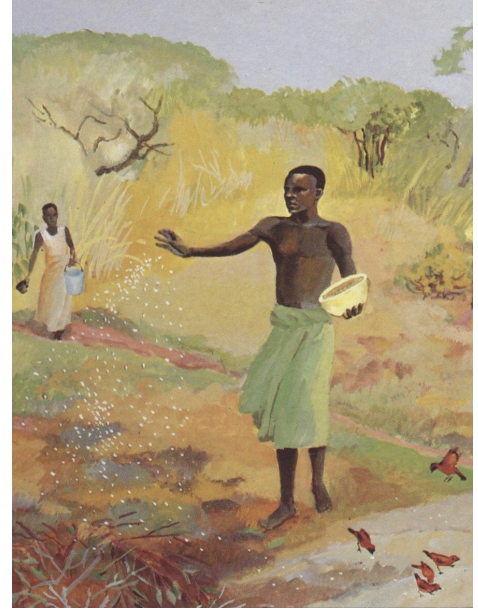
Although it may be too soon for us to gather and prepare bagged lunches together, we certainly can prepare lunches in our own homes. Folk in Hartford will need about 40 bagged lunches on August 1. If you're willing to prepare some of those in your home, please let Leslie Jones know by emailing lesliejonesie@gmail.com and let her know how many bagged lunches you can supply. A typical bagged lunch has two sandwiches, a bottle of water, a napkin, packets of mustard and mayo, and other stuff like cookies, chips, cracker packages, and/or fruit. Some of those things are available to share and there are funds to reimburse expenses. Leslie can deliver the lunches to Hartford unless you'd like to do it yourself.

Scholarships for Nigerian Students in Primary Schools



This will be our third year of supporting children with their education in the Anglican Diocese of Kafanchan, Nigeria. For just \$92, you can provide a student with tuition, books, uniforms, food and housing for one year. Our goal is to provide scholarships for at least 40 students.

Whether you'd like to provide a full scholarship for \$92 or a half scholarship for \$46, make your check payable to Trinity Episcopal Church and write "Nigerian scholarship" on the memo line.



The parable of the sower, Jesus MAFA, 1973

Holy Communion

For the Sunday service, we celebrate Holy Communion at 9 am. If you have a conflict at that time, you can tune in at any time. We encourage everyone to enter this service as fully as possible. When the Holy Communion is shared, we encourage everyone to pray this prayer.

Prayer for Receiving Spiritual Communion

Lord Jesus Christ, I believe that you are present in this Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, please enter my heart spiritually. I embrace you as if you are already here and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you.



Girl with basket of fish,
 Pierre-Auguste Renoir, 1890

Business Report

Pledge Status (end of May)

Total Pledge	\$ 55,388
Received	\$ 53,210
Difference	\$ -2,178

Income/Expenses (end of March)

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 61,880	\$ 65,616
Expenses	\$ 56,776	\$ 65,616

If you'd like to learn more about the business of the church, you can check out the monthly vestry minutes on our website at trinityepiscopalweth.org/vestry

Evening Book Club

Save the date! The Evening Book Club will resume on Tuesday, September 8, at 5:45 pm (BYOE – Bring Your Own Everything) at the home of Judith Melchreit for our annual planning meeting. Bring a reading suggestion or two and your calendar. Our summer read-ahead choice for October is *Bad Blood* by John Carreyrou. Contact Joan Joseph at 860-666-4847 for more information.

Please Remember Your Pledge

While in-person church services are not being held and the Trinity campus is closed, the financial obligations of the church continue, and must be met. Please remember send in your pledge.

Our Weekly Prayer List

May Your kingdom come and Your will be done.

MONDAY

Susanna, Mike & Avery	Kathy	Roger
Tom & Maryjane	Carol	Rose & Ray
Jimmy & Kristine	Ginny & Mike	Ginger
Ellie, Amy & Alexandria	Clark & Joyce	Anne
Josue, Kayla & Josue Jr.	Nancy, Cole & Tate	Mel & J.R.
Margarita & Hugues		

TUESDAY

J.P. & Mauricio	Tim	Bruce
Joan & Greg	Arline	Martha
Jane Helen	Linda	Sue
Arnold & Barbara	Nick	Mary Lou
Susan & David	William & Lilyan	Joan

WEDNESDAY

David	Sarah	Audrey
Denise	Vicki	Lorraine
Connie & Raymond	Bruce	Ken
Dorothy & Lauren	Michael & Cheryl	Joan
Paul & Keri	Jan	Dan
Denise & Carl		

THURSDAY

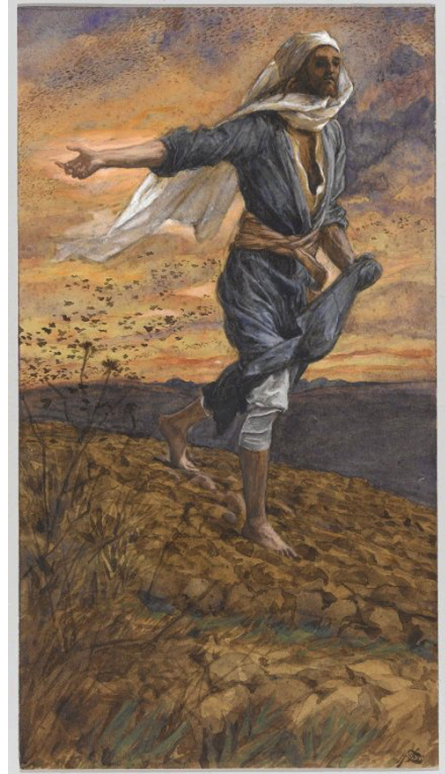
Warren & Lynda	Sarah	Ashley
Mark & Cheryl	Marilyn	Corinne
Judith & Charles	Taylor	Darren
Jessie, Tom & Bernadette	Billye & Jack	Barbara & Ed
Allison & Jamie	Heidi & Brianna	Leslie
Helen, Ben, Molly, Hannah & Andrew		

FRIDAY

William & Marion	Lorraine	Shirley
David & Mary	Rebecca & Gordon	Marilyn
Peter & Sheila	Rob & Nan	Michael
Geraldeen	Robert & Arney	Anne
Kirk, Tracey & Hayes	John & Diane	Sue
Garth, Melanie, Atlee & Phebe		

SATURDAY

Sal & Mimi	Judy	Donna
Nancy & Paul	Ray & Denise	Theo
Rob & Mitch	Tina & Peter	Barbara
Paula & Arthur	Carl & Sue	Darryl
Linda & Tom	Brooke, Fred & Lulu	
Patrick, Jennifer, Hannah & Lily		
Jerry, AnnMarie, Elizabeth, Catherine & Pete		



The Sower, James Tissot, 1886-1894

Bishop Scruton's Daily Prayer during this Pandemic

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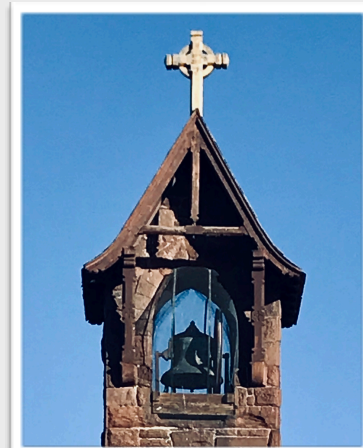
O Lord, keep bringing redemptive moments and actions out of this calamity day by day. Please open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your son, our savior. Amen.

A Prayer for Parish Mission

Dear and Gracious God,

Please send us the people we need in order to become the church You want us to be, and please send us the people who need us in order to become the people You want them to be. Help us to respond with love to those You send, making room for them at our table and in our hearts so that together we can share Your love with our neighbors in need both locally and around the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who met people where they were, loved and cared for them, and invited them into a deeper relationship with You.

Amen



The Belfry

The Belfry is a monthly publication of Trinity Episcopal Church, 300 Main Street, Wethersfield, CT. Send articles and photographs to lesliejonesie@gmail.com

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If you prefer to receive The Belfry by email, please contact the office at operations@trinityepiscopalweth.org or 860-529-6825.