

THE BELFRY

Trinity Episcopal Church | Wethersfield, CT

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Services

Worship services for Monday through Friday and Sunday are posted on our website and Facebook page.

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 Wednesday mornings and/or Centering Prayer on Wednesday afternoons.



From Our Pastor

Let us hold fast to the confession of hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stir one another up to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:23-25

Dear Trinity Community,

As the biblical passage above reminds us, Christian faith is a community effort. To be a real Christian, one needs to have a real and sincere personal faith. But our personal faith is shaped and encouraged and strengthened by our interaction with other people of faith: “...let us consider how to stir one another up to love and good works...”. We help one another to

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*Signs on the Door, 1886-1902,
James Jacques Joseph Tissot*

Sunday Readings

September 6

Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 149
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

September 13

Exodus 14:19-31
Psalm 114
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

September 20

Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

September 27

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

FROM OUR PASTOR (continued from page 1)

grow deeper in faith and love and service. We lift one another up when we are down. We pray for one another when we are hurting. We encourage one another when we have lost our way or lose hope.

I don't need to tell any of you that this communal aspect of our faith has been exceedingly difficult over the last six months. We have tried to maintain a connection with each other through phone calls, online worship services and Bible studies, and prayer groups on Sunday and each weekday. More recently, we have been trying outdoor worship in our parking lot with an Evening Prayer service on Sundays at 4 pm.

Over all of this time, we (clergy, wardens and vestry members) have been praying, talking and thinking about how we might begin to worship in our church building again. Assuming that the COVID-19 metrics continue to move in a good direction in Connecticut, we are developing a plan to offer three worship services each weekend (one in the church sanctuary, one online and one outdoors).

We have all (clergy, wardens and vestry) come to a consensus on this plan and we are now in the process of figuring out the practical details. We will publicize our plan in a couple of weeks after we get the details sorted out. I wanted to give you all a "heads up" on this beforehand. Hopefully, we can begin our new plan by mid-September.

Please bear with us, and pray with us, in this process. We are in uncharted waters — and the waters keep shifting every day. We may try some things that don't work very well and need to change our plans. If the COVID-19 metrics change for the worse, we may have to backtrack. Pray for God's guidance and wisdom in all that we do.

Yours in Christ,
Father Tom

P.S. Thank you all for the cards, text messages and phone calls, and prayers following my hip replacement surgery. I really appreciate all of these expressions of your love. They help the healing process. I am obeying my physical therapist and not overdoing it – at least not too much.

Our Book Club Begins Its 16th Season

Trinity's evening book club is poised to begin its 16th season this September! Our first meeting was in 2004 with Dan Brown's *The DaVinci Code*, led by the Rev. Joann Neel-Richards and held in Joan Joseph's living room with about 20-25 people present. And, although we currently don't have 20+ members, we still average 8-10 members every year.

As with everything, this year's meetings will be very different from our past gatherings which have evolved from a 7-9 pm wine, apps, dessert & book evening to our very successful 5:45-7:45 pm pizza & book discussions. We finished our year with ZOOM and now we are gearing up for 2020-2021 and whatever it throws our way!

Our annual planning meeting, where we choose our reading selections, dates and hosts for the year, will be Tuesday, September 8 at 5:45 pm, outdoors, in the beautiful backyard of Judith Melchreit — socially distancing with masks, of course! Bring your own food and drink and don't forget your calendar and list of suggested titles. We will be Zooming for the remainder of the year.

Before adjourning in May, we chose *Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup* by John Carreyrou for summer reading.

Interested? Please call Joan Joseph at 860-666-4847 or email golfst4@aol.com

Trinity's Flower Fund

The flower fund was set up to pay for weekly altar and holiday flowers. The purpose the flowers is two-fold: to adorn the sanctuary and to offer parishioners and friends the opportunity to remember people who have touched their lives.

A donation form is circulated before Easter and Christmas. You may also call the church office with a request and donation at any time. At holiday time, printed acknowledgement is provided for all memorial and thanksgiving recipients and their donors.

Our arrangements are designed by Kim's Flower Shop located in Wethersfield. For weddings and other services at Trinity, we recommend you contact them.

Please know your donation to the Trinity Flower Fund is received with gratitude and appreciation by the Altar Guild.



*Merciful Mother, early 21st century,
Jessica Jane Lynch*

Ye Olde Sugar Plum Fair

Our annual fair was scheduled for Saturday, November 21, 2020. Because of the uncertainty of holding public gatherings as we go forward with the COVID-19 pandemic, your vestry has voted to cancel the fair for this year. We will use this year to look at the 'why' and 'how' we do the fair and also if there is reason to do things differently.

Trinity's Photo Journal

Visit our online photo journal at trinityepiscopalweth.org/photo-gallery for visuals of what's been happening during the pandemic. Recently added are photos of Father Darryl's last service with us on August 30.



*The Late-arriving Workers, 1973,
JESUS MAFA*

Parish Leadership

PASTOR

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

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

Nigerian Scholarships

Our efforts to support the education of children in the Diocese of Kafanchan, Nigeria continues. For \$95, you can provide a student with tuition, books, uniforms, food and housing for one year. We have almost reached our goal of providing scholarships for 50 students. If you would like to contribute, please do so now so that the money can be wired to Nigeria this month. Whether you would like to provide a full scholarship for \$95 or a half scholarship for \$47.50, make your check payable to Trinity Episcopal Church and write "Nigerian Scholarship" on the memo line.

Backpack Program

A check for \$300 was recently sent to Wethersfield Social Services to support their backpack programs for food, snacks and school supplies. COVID-19 has changed the way their distribution is being handled and more days have been added. Peanut butter & jelly, mac & cheese, cereal, soups, canned pasta, tuna, canned chicken and snacks are given to families with children who need assistance. They also have a wish list for school supplies. Our donation will be used where it is needed most.

South Park Inn

During the pandemic, we will not be bringing donations to South Park Inn. We can, however, donate either online at southparkinn.org/donate or send a check to Office of Development, 75 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106.

Wethersfield Food Bank

Although we can't deliver food during the pandemic, many people still want to help feed those who are hungry. You may 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. Mail a check to Town Hall, Attn. Wethersfield Food Bank, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, 06109.

Our Syrian American Family

We also cannot take groceries to our family at this time. However, parishioners have brought cash, personal care items, and paper goods to Marilyn's home, and she has safely delivered them.

Outreach to Local, Regional and Worldwide Communities

Hands on Hartford

Hands on Hartford used our gift of \$150 for the Community Crisis Fund which was established 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. Executive Director Barbara Shaw has graciously expressed gratitude for our support.

Community Dinners

There are two dinners left to support this year. Our next dinner is September 28 and the last one will be November 23. We will collect the food or donations and deliver everything to Hands on Hartford's headquarters for the dinner to be prepared by their volunteers. Hopefully we will be able to once again join in the food preparation and serving of the dinner once COVID-19 is under control. The usual items are needed: hams, coleslaw, coleslaw dressing, fruit punch, baked beans (four #10 cans), desserts, rolls & butter, and mac & cheese. A specific list of sizes and amounts will be distributed via email. If you would like to make a donation, please call or email Warren or Lynda Blessing so they can maintain a complete list. Their contact information is 860-742-3253 and ctvalleywc@yahoo.com

Business Report

Pledge Status (end of July)

Total Pledge	\$ 77,543
Received	\$ 73,572
Difference	\$ -1,971

Income/Expenses (end of July)

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 83,437	\$ 91,862
Expenses	\$ 74,869	\$ 91,862

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



New Spirit, 2008-2009, Dale Chihuly

Holy Communion

We celebrate Holy Communion online every Sunday. The link is on our website and FaceBook page. When 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.



Moses, 1983, John August Swanson

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. Bring a reading suggestion or two and your calendar. Learn more about the Evening Book Club in a related article on page 3.

Thanks for Remembering Your Pledge

While in-church services are not being held and the Trinity building is closed, the financial obligations of the church continue, and must be met. Thank you for remembering to send in your your pledge.

Reflections in this Season

By Rebecca Scruton

How are you feeling during this COVID-19 summer? I have a list of many gratitudes and a list of concerns.

I am deeply touched and concerned about the isolation, loneliness, depression, fear and lack of hope people are sharing as a reality of their journey right now. How do you respond to this statement and with what feeling are you identifying?

These feelings are very real responses to these times in which we live. There is no ‘one answer fits all’ to dealing with our personal concerns. However, there are ways to hold and live with these new realities.

A question that arises every time I talk with a Trinity parishioner is, “When are we going to be able to worship together inside?” This need to “worship together” is at the very crux of our feelings of loss, aimlessness, and unsettledness. We need relationships, with God and our faith community. Because, we know from our experience, in these two places we can find support and hope.

While we continue to wait until we can gather inside together I have found several little intentional actions that have been helpful and sustaining for me.

One is music, especially phrases from hymns that pop into mind: “All my hope in God is founded, God is working His purpose out as year succeeds to year...”

Another is reading of God’s love and provisions in Scripture: “I am with you always, I am the Good Shepherd, Nothing can separate us from the love of God” — God’s faithful, relational love.

Another is calling, emailing, or connecting with people whose faces and/or names pop into my mind. In these awarenesses I can sense the Holy Spirit’s nudging me to reach out and connect with that person. Almost every time I do, the conversations have been significant. In reaching out we become the heart, hands and ears that God uses for ‘the other’ and for me.

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REFLECTIONS IN THIS SEASON (cont'd from previous page)

So please give each other a call, even if you're not close friends. Our call to another person may be a turning point in their life as well as our own.

Prayer is central to our healing and being fulfilled. I encourage you to pray at anytime, in all situations with words that pop into your heads. Additionally, we can use the prayers throughout the Book of Common Prayer, especially beginning on page 814, which can be deeply moving and expressive of many of our desires.

Let's pray together the Prayer For the Human Family from page 815:

*"O God, you made us in your own image
and redeemed us through Jesus your Son:
Look with compassion on the whole human family;
take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts;
break down the walls that separate us;
unite us in bonds of love;
and work through our struggle and confusion
to accomplish your purposes on earth;
that, in your good time,
all nations and races may serve you in harmony
around your heavenly throne;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

Deep peace,
Rebecca



*Why Do I Have To Change The World?,
approximately 2017, NYC, NY*

Prayers at the End of Every Day

The service of Compline can be found in your prayer book beginning on page 127. Or you can go [online here](#) for the nightly service with Bishop Gordon and Rebecca Scruton.

Bishop Scruton's Prayer during this Pandemic

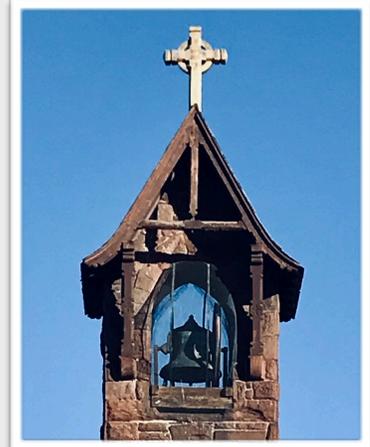
O Lord, keep bringing redemptive moments and actions out of this calamity day by day. Please open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your son, our savior. Amen.

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

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