

Weary Years, Silent Tears

By Bishop Peggy A. Johnson

When the guilty verdict at the Derek Chauvin trial was announced, I immediately contacted one of our pastors, the Rev. Dr. Ron Bell, Jr. He is an Elder in the Peninsula-Delaware Conference who serves the Camphor UMC in St. Paul, Minnesota. Since last year, he has been hard at work ministering to a congregation and community that has been traumatized by the murder of George Floyd.

I asked him, what are you feeling right now? He said, "I have been holding this cry in since May of last year. Today, in this moment, these tears represent a deep sense of relief. I feel seen, I feel valued. I feel like finally, my black life matters to others."

Family of God, this has been a very difficult journey for our country in the past year but there have been "weary years and silent tears" for centuries. Many people have not received justice in the past; and racial inequity and violence against people of color has been a painful reality. May we shed some silent tears along with our many brothers and sisters who have been traumatized by racism, unjust systems and brutality.

As a church, may we pray for our country, that it continues the redemptive journey of racial reckoning. Please hold the family of George Floyd in your prayers for the loss of their loved one.

Pray for peace and justice for all people. Provide patient, supportive, loving community for those who have been wounded and traumatized by hate. This is not fully a moment of jubilation for all, but more a sigh of relief and deep exhaustion.

Take responsibility to do the things that you can personally do that will help make positive changes in our world. Restorative Justice is a practice, a way of living, and not a verdict in one particular trial. The church can teach this and model this.

The Psalmist reminds us that "weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning." (Psalm 30:5). May we live and work to see the dawning of joy and of equity for everyone born.

"Transformed" Additional Resources

- **National Sexual Assault Telephone Hotline:** 1-800-656-HOPE. Please call this line if you have experienced sexual assault and wish to speak to someone, no matter when the assault happened. The line is open 24/7.
- **For Native Communities by Native Communities -- StrongHearts Native Helpline:** 1-844-7NATIVE. This helpline is a domestic violence helpline for American Indians and Alaska Natives that provides culturally appropriate support. The line is open from 7am – 10pm CST.
- **Northeastern Jurisdiction Native American Ministries Committee**
- **National Indigenous Women's Resource Center**
- **"Deb Haaland Creates Unit to Investigate Missing and Murdered Native Americans"**
- **"What to do when you are raped,"** Native American Women's Health Education and Resource Center
- **"Sexual assault advocacy guide,"** Mending the Sacred Hoop
- **Native People and The United Methodist Church / 2016 Book of Resolutions. #3321**



THE BRIDGE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHESAPEAKE CITY UNITED METHODIST CHARGE
MAY 2021

To Build Bridges by Growing with Christ, Uniting in Fellowship, and Serving Faithfully



Greetings Friends,

It has been a blessing to spend this first month of Spring in Chesapeake City, and an even greater blessing to worship with our church family inside Trinity church these past few weeks. The changing of the seasons for both the world around us and our church family has filled me with an even deeper appreciation for our God and all the good that has been given us!

What a blessing it has been to worship inside with our church family these past few weeks, both in person and online. It has certainly been quite a weight and a long time coming, but it was a personal joy for me to finally lead Sunday service inside Trinity church. It fills my heart with joy not simply to gather together both in person and online, but also to know that we continue to move closer to a resolution to the current COVID pandemic. I would like to offer my sincerest thanks to the regathering team and to all those who assist in Sunday worship for making our move back inside possible and successful. It is a blessing to be able to work with such wonderful folks knowing that everyone truly works out of a desire to serve the Lord and our church family. And of course, I would like to thank our entire church family for abiding by all of our safety measures for indoor worship and the continuing faithfulness of those who worship online.

Related to this I'd like to remind everyone that for the foreseeable future we will maintain our current pattern for Sunday worship. This being our traditional service at 9:00 a.m., Sunday School at 10:15, and the Jacob's Well contemporary service at 11:00. Both the 9:00 and 11:00 services will be streamed to the church's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/chesapeakecityumc) and recordings will be uploaded later that day to the Pastor's Page of the church's website (www.chesapeakecityumc.com). While our transition to using the sanctuary as our main worshiping space has not been seamless, we are proud to be able to offer our services both live-streamed and recorded for all those who are not yet ready or able to attend in person. We hope to continue this practice indefinitely, as the ability to access worship online is not just a consideration for COVID, but improves the accessibility of connecting with both God and our church family for all persons.

If you have any questions or concerns related to worship or the life of the church in this time I encourage you to contact any member of the regathering
Pastor's Pen - Continues on Pg. 2

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www.chesapeakecityumc.com

Sunday Worship at Trinity

9:00 am: Traditional

11:00 am: Contemporary

Virtual Worship Live on Facebook

Sundays at 9 & 11

www.facebook.com/chesapeakecityumc

Videos available on our website at:

www.chesapeakecityumc.com/pastors-page



JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

Articles and submissions for the next edition of *The Bridge* are due to newsletter@chesapeakecityumc.com by

THURSDAY, MAY 20TH

We welcome submissions from young and old alike and encourage our church family to send in your poems, interesting information on upcoming area-wide events, etc.



Pastor's Pen - Continued from Cover
team, church leadership, or myself. We are continuously monitoring the health situation of our community and will make adjustments as needed, but feel free to bring any questions or concerns to us.

On the eve of such hopeful changes in the seasons and life of the church I am reminded of Jesus teaching on the true vine from John 15: 1-4.

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me".

In this beautiful piece of scripture, Jesus reminds us that one of the most basic prerequisites for real growth is for us to continually abide in Christ. For us as Christians this means to continually seek out Christ in our everyday lives, to work at living into God's will for us and those around us, to move in faith throughout the world so that the gospel is proclaimed not just with our words but with every aspect of our lives. This is the spiritual fruit that Christ is bringing about in each of us, the spiritual fruit of love, a crop that can only be produced when we remain in the one who gives us life. I find this section of scripture to be particularly important given the changing of the seasons and the changing of our church community. We as people of faith must remember that it is God and God alone who is the giver and continuing source of our life. In a world that so continually attempts to distract us and convince us that there are other places to turn besides God for life and growth, it's more important than ever to hold fast to that which has brought us this far. Let us remain in Christ, that we might continue to grow in his love and grace, that love and grace might overflow into all the world around us and that we might become living testimonies to God's love and grace at work in us. Just as anyone can tell a plant by its fruit, so too should others be able to tell who we are by the spiritual fruit we produce, the way we live our lives, and for who we live our lives. So at this changing of the seasons, I remind and challenge all of us to remain with the one who has given us life and brought about the growth of all the fruit in us thus far: Jesus, the true vine.


Grace and Peace,

Erin Matthews



MAY MISSION:

Cecil County Pregnancy Center



We have been in a partnership ministry with the Cecil County Pregnancy Center for well over 15 years. The Center provides a wide range of services, primarily to single, expectant Moms. Those services include medical, counseling, a baby store of goods and clothing for infants thru toddler ages and more!





The goal is to bring healthy babies into the world and to provide the mother a solid foundation as she transitions into the world of parenting.

During our 1st year of ministry we provided the baby bottles to church members who wished to take one home and fill it with loose change over the period of one month. The change and bottles are then returned to the Center. The funds raised allow the Center to secure the most up-to-date training materials for the Mother classes; to keep staff current in training and to have one staff member medically certified and trained to perform ultra-sounds. Again the ultimate goal is to provide the expectant Moms with the most current information and best services available.

We have elected to return to the "baby bottle" ministry and as of this writing are working to arrange a time to pick up the bottles. The intent is to have them available for church members on **Sunday, May 2nd** and to have the bottles returned **June 6th** at the latest.

If you have any questions, please contact Please contact Deb Forsythe (443-593-3811) or Beth Ohline (302-379-0402)

BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG CAMPAIGN



PICK A BABY BOTTLE

PRAY OVER BABY BOTTLES

FILL WITH CHANGE DOLLARS & CHECKS

RETURN BABY BOTTLE

Your funds will help the Cecil Pregnancy & Family Resource Center save unborn lives and meet the physical and spiritual needs of families who are facing an unplanned pregnancy.

A little change...CHANGES LIVES!

MAY 2021 - SERVANTS					
9:00 a.m. Traditional	May 2	May 9	May 16	May 23	May 30
Worship Leader	Victoria Foraker	Tom Duffy	Mikki Senn	Lisa Malin	Gwenn Barteld
Acolyte	Ailise Keenan				Lisa Malin
Greeters	Regathering Team				
11:00 a.m. Contemporary					
Greeters	Regathering Team				
CCEA Food Delivery	*Servants Needed*	*Servants Needed*	*Servants Needed*	*Servants Needed*	*Servants Needed*



WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES SCHEDULE

TUESDAYS :

Ladies Bible Study
(NOT YET RESUMED) - Mary Meadows Home

"The Journey" Reconciling Group
(NOT YET RESUMED) - The Bartelds' Home

WEDNESDAYS:

Pastor's Bible Study
6:00 pm - www.facebook.com/chesapeakecityumc

THURSDAYS :

"Following Jesus"
6:30 pm - Town Point Church

SUNDAYS:

Adult Sunday School
10:15 am - Downstairs at Trinity



See Page 3 for more information on each of these groups

THE UPPER ROOM

DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

The May/June issues of *The Upper Room* are now available in the church foyer & office.

Please stop in and pick up a copy or if you need one mailed to you, please contact the church office either by email to: office@chesapeakecityumc.com or call (410) 885-5641.

<div><div>Traditional Worship 9 am Trinity</div><div>Sunday School All Ages 10:15 am Lower Level</div><div>Contemporary Jacob's Well Service 11:00 am Trinity</div><div>Virtual Worship Facebook Live 9 & 11 am www.chesapeakecityumc.com</div></div>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9:00am - Traditional Worship (Trinity) 10:15 am - Sunday School Classes (downstairs) 11:00 am - Contemporary Worship (Trinity)	3 TEACHER	4 5:30 pm - Private Group Use (TPt)	5 appreciation	6 6:00 pm - Praise Band Rehearsal (Tr) 6:30 pm - "Following Jesus" (TP) 6:30 pm - National Day of Prayer (Bohemia Wesleyan)	7 week	1 / 8 8:00am - CCUMC Yard Sale YARD SALE
9 Mother's Day 9:00am - Traditional Worship (Trinity) 10:15 am - Sunday School Classes (downstairs) 11:00 am - Contemporary Worship (Trinity)	10 7:00 pm - Webelos Den Meeting (TPt)	11 5:30 pm - Private Group Use (TPt)	12 6:00 pm - Pastor's Bible Study (online) 6:30 pm - Boy Scout #336 (Tr Fellowship)	13 6:30 pm - "Following Jesus" (TPt) 6:00 pm - Praise Band Rehearsal (Tr)	14	15 ARMED FORCES DAY
16 9:00am - Traditional Worship (Trinity) 10:15 am - Sunday School Classes (downstairs) 11:00 am - Contemporary Worship (Trinity) 3:00pm - Cub Pack 336 Meeting (TPt)	17 7:30 pm - Finance Committee Mtg (Zm)	18 5:30 pm - Private Group Use (TPt) 7:00 pm - Church Council Mtg (zoom)	19 6:00 pm - Pastor's Bible Study (online) 6:30 pm - Boy Scout #336 (Tr Fellowship)	20 11:00 am - Newsletter Submission Deadline 6:00 pm - Praise Band Rehearsal (Tr) 6:30 pm - "Following Jesus" (TPt)	21	22
23 PENTECOST 9:00am - Traditional Worship (Trinity) 10:15 am - Sunday School Classes (downstairs) 11:00 am - Contemporary Worship (Trinity)	24	25 4:00 pm - Kanal Kitchen (Tr) 5:30 pm - Private Group Use (TPt) 6:30 pm -CCEA Board Mtg (CCEA Complex)	26 6:00 pm - Pastor's Bible Study (online) 6:30 pm - Boy Scout #336 (Tr Fellowship)	27 6:00 pm - Praise Band Rehearsal (Tr) 6:30 pm - "Following Jesus" (TPt)	28	29
30 9:00am - Traditional Worship (Trinity) 10:15 am - Sunday School Classes (downstairs) 11:00 am - Contemporary Worship (Trinity)	31 Memorial Day REMEMBER AND HONOR					

MAY
WORSHIP

2nd - 5th Sunday of Easter
9th - 6th Sunday of Easter - Mother's Day
Festival of the Christian Home
16th - 7th Sunday of Easter - Ascension Sunday
23rd - Day of Pentecost - Heritage Sunday
30th - Trinity Sunday- Peace with Justice Sunday

Sunday
School
Updates

Sunday School
is in session!

Sunday mornings at 10:15 am
downstairs at Trinity!

Contact Lisa Malin if you have any
questions! lmalin68@gmail.com

Mother's Day
Prayer

THINKING OF YOU ON MOTHER'S DAY,
AND SAYING A special PRAYER—
THAT GOD,
WHO KNOWS HOW DEAR YOU ARE,
WILL KEEP YOU IN HIS CARE.
THAT HE WILL bless YOUR DAILY LIFE
WITH JOYS OF EVERY KIND—
WITH PERFECT HEALTH AND HAPPINESS
AND peace OF
HEART AND MIND.

SMALL GROUPS
GET INVOLVED

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Adult Sunday School class has returned to in-person format each Sunday at 10:15 am.

Each session has a scripture focus, lively discussion, and a post- lesson reflection to study during the week.

If you have any questions, please contact Marian Harvey at mariantodddharvey@gmail.com

Come along with us on our faith journey!

Following Jesus
Steps to a
Passionate Faith
Led by Wes & Laura Logullo
Thursdays at 6:30 pm at Town Point Church

“Older Than Youth” Group
A group for Adults with fellowship and fun!

For questions: contact
Laura Logullo 410-441-1852
or Katie Hoffman 610-621-7387

family friends
faith

Pastor's Bible
Study

Wednesday Evenings - 6:00 pm

Pastor's Bible Study will continue online with videos being posted on Wednesday evenings by 6 pm.

For more information,
contact Pastor Sam.



TRINITY PRESCHOOL NEWS

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN !!!
Serving ages 3 & 4 - MD EXCELS LEVEL 3
Quality~Affordable~Faith-Based
www.chesapeakecityumc.com/preschool

Contact Us Today!

450 Third St., PO Box 196

Chesapeake City, MD

preschool@trinityumcpreschool.org

410-885-2148



"Transformed Lives Transform Lives" - April 14, 2021

CHURCHES CALLED TO ADDRESS AND ADVOCATE FOR MISSING AND MURDERED NATIVE AMERICAN GIRLS AND WOMEN

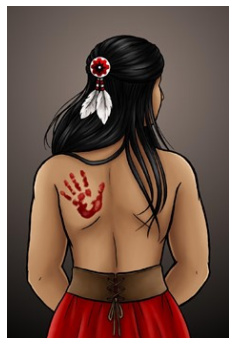
Bishop LaTrelle Easterling and the Baltimore-Washington Conference Committee on Native American Ministries are calling on United Methodists to support legislation that will solve the thousands of unsolved cases of missing and murdered Native American girls, to recognize this injustice, and take action to end it on May 5.

This Sunday April 18, United Methodist congregations are invited to celebrate the contributions of [Native American Ministries](#).

We are invited to generously fund programs that transform the spiritual and congregational lives of First Nations communities through congregational and leadership development. These are vital ministries.

At the heart of our respect for Native American ministries is our public witness that names the violent legacy borne of hundreds of years of colonization, forced geographic relocation and policies that erode tribal sovereignty. We cannot ignore the escalating disappearances, cases of domestic violence, including rape and murder that are found at the intersection of human trafficking, amplifying the more than

"Transformed" Continues...



.. Transformed" Continued

five-hundred years of transgenerational trauma aimed at Native women and girl's bodies.

Even as we mobilize congregations to celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday, the Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM) calls on the Baltimore-Washington Conference to educate congregations on the urgency to advocate during the [2021 National Week of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#).

Every woman and girl's life are sacred. Systemic misogyny is antithetical to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The 2016 United Methodist Resolution "[Eradicating Sexual and Gender-Based Violence](#)" says, "violence takes different forms and, in many cases, it is about power and control. Violence is a tool used by the strong to dominate the weak and the powerful to dominate the vulnerable. Often the mere threat of violence is enough to achieve the goal of dominance and control. Human beings are especially vulnerable with respect to gender and sexuality, and therefore sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is particularly devastating."

We must first confront harmful perceptions and confront racist policies that minimize violent acts and deny that systemic violence affects off-reservation American Indigenous women and girls. In 2019 only 116 of 5,712 of missing Native women and girls were logged into the Department of Justice's nationwide database and in several Native communities. Women and girls have been murdered at a rate of ten times the national average.

We must also hear the voices of 84 percent of Native women and girls who have reported experiencing gender-based physical assault at least once in their lifetimes and the 86 percent of Native women and girls who have been sexually assaulted by non-Native men. We applaud "[Savanna's Act](#)" as a first step to increase federal trust responsibility to assist tribal governments in safeguarding the lives of Indian women. We support Interior Secretary Debra Haaland who [said on CNN](#), "Violence against Indigenous peoples is a crisis that has been underfunded for decades. Far too often, murders and missing persons cases in Indian country go unsolved and unaddressed, leaving families and communities devastated."

As the Chairperson of the Native American International Caucus, Ragghi Rain of the Eastern Cherokee Tribe has stated, "Missing, murdered Indigenous Women and Girls -- it is a human rights crisis as racism runs rapidly through our country and communities; Native People are not seen as fully equal, but the stereotypes that live within the minds of the majority of Americans."

At the state and national level, we call on congregations to support legislation to expedite jurisdictional authorities to solve the thousands of outstanding cases that have not been tracked and we urge congregations to remove the shame endured by Native women and girls who speak out with courage to report abuse.

To honor the call for justice for missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, on May 5 we urge congregations to recognize a National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls, and [engage in public acts of education, solidarity and advocacy](#) that empower the voice and aspirations of Native women and girls, at the local, regional, national, and international levels.

For a list of resources, see the back cover of this Newsletter.



Spring has arrived and with it renewed hope arriving in the blossoms of the multitude of flowers, the greening of grass and the multitudes of trees bursting forth in leaves! Allergies are also in full bloom, but let's focus on the positives.

For the first time in a year, our churches have been able to organize in-person services again. The National Day of Prayer will be celebrated on May 6th. This year's theme **"Lord Pour Out Your Love, Life and Liberty"**. The CCEA will host a prayer service at 6:30p. Pastor Shane Dickinson will open Bohemia Wesleyan Church, 3056 Augustine Herman Highway, Chesapeake City, MD 21915. While services will be in-person, priority will be given to those presenting prayer for the event and then to the general public. This is to ensure we are able to accommodate our government, church and civic leaders who have committed their time to be present AND to be in compliance with safe health practices of social distancing and masks. Masks will be required for all attendees, except during the time each is presenting prayer. Eileen Viars and Pastor Shane will be arranging for the recording of the service which may be viewed **on the CCEA YouTube Channel** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyJu6LnmfwUftUwhP3waAw> and **CCEA Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/CCEA4U>.

Walking to support Autism Delaware
-Don Koss



Hi! I've registered for Autism Delaware's Walk for Autism this year and am asking for your support.

Why do I need your support?

Because I am fundraising to support the agency's quarterly newsletter called *The Sun*. As you may already know, my wife is the managing editor of this publication—and I love her work because it covers best practice and up-to-date research in an easy-to-read format as well as the kinds of resources that individuals and families affected by autism need over their lifetimes. Yes, this info is targeted for Delawareans, but it can help families from any state by giving them general direction through their own state services.

"Autism Delaware" Continues...

.. "Autism Delaware" Continued

Please make a donation by clicking on the link below—because it'll make my wife happy with me!

<https://autismdelaware.salsalabs.org/wilmingtonwalkforautism2021/p/donkoss/index.html>

We are sharing the previous information on behalf of Don Koss, who has served at the pantry throughout the past year. In addition, he delivers Knock/Drop boxes to guests who cannot come to the pantry due to health or transportation issues and he is affectionately known as "Not Bob" when he makes special deliveries of bread and eggs to Canal Town.

We sincerely hope our readers will considering support Don, as much as he has provided support to our guests and our association for several years now.

Be safe in your travels, gentle in your words and always in HIS arms,

Deb Forsythe, CCEA President



Dear Redner Receipts participants,

Following these guidelines can help ensure that your organization (CCEA) will receive their checks in a timely manner.

- Customer must use their Pump Perks/1% Save-A-Tape card for purchase. This will be noted on the bottom of the receipt.
- Please submit the whole receipt. Partial receipts will not be considered.
- Please do not use a highlighter marker on your receipts, it can erase the totals.
- All receipts must be dated within one year prior to the date of submission.
- Receipts from fuel purchases at Redner's Quick Shoppes are not considered.

Money earned through this program helps to fund the CCEA food pantry in purchasing perishable and non-perishable food.

Many of you see the announcement for Redner's each month. With most of our churches currently closed to weekly worship, the receipts being turned in has decreased. On average these receipts produce an additional \$1000.00+ annually in funding to the Food Pantry.

As noted in the announcement you must use your Rewards Card at the register and tapes may not be altered in any way (please do not cut; mark up, etc.) and the date of the tape must be within the last 12 months (we highly recommend 9 months or less to ensure they are still good by the time we receive and process them). The simple act of using your card, saving your tapes and sending them in makes more difference than you realize when the tapes are added to the others received.