



# TRINITY NEWS

For Family & Friends of Trinity Moravian Church

APRIL 2020

Pandemic Edition

## ***From the Pastor:***

Good grief! When we were preparing the March newsletter back in mid-February, none of us had any idea where we would be just a month later! All plans swept aside, all normal operations and in-person meetings cancelled, Easter Sunrise service limited to ten participants! We didn't learn anything about this in seminary; no one learned how to handle this crisis in business school. The only ones who had training that helps are the medical personnel and the emergency response folks – and they are telling me they didn't have enough training. These are scary times.

But we are not the first to face such a crisis. Many of our older members remember the “summers of polio.” The crisis of WWII caused our entire nation to change everything, from rationing of gas and sugar to thousands of women taking over jobs in factories. No one is left that remembers the 1918 flu pandemic, but there were several tragic mistakes in handling that which caused it to spread out of control.

Trinity has made it through each of these times, and together we will make it through this crisis. We are bonded together with the love of Christ, and while we truly love being together, those bonds continue even when we must be isolated at home. We will be doing everything we can to use the new technologies available to keep us all connected, and to provide the best and most normal Holy Week and Easter experiences that are possible.

Pray for us all! Please pray for our leadership, both Trinity and the Moravian Church, Southern Province, and the worldwide Moravian Church. Check on your neighbors, especially those who are vulnerable. If there are practical or spiritual needs, let us know and we will see how we can help.

Blessings,  
*Pastor John*



## **Local and State-Wide Stay at Home Orders**

As you should be aware, there are both local and state-wide “stay-at-home” orders in place. We encourage you to follow these orders! Of course, you may still go out for necessary trips to the grocery store or pharmacy. You can also get take-out food at the restaurants that are still open – one is Kermit's! Please, during this time, patronize locally-owned businesses as much as possible.

As a point of information, the Mayor's Office and Governor's office has clarified that small meetings for the purpose of creating a church **webcast** are permissible – so long as the group is ten or less, and proper social distancing and precautions are practiced. This give Salem Congregation the “room” to celebrate the Easter Sunrise Service – but the group of ten will include a very small band, a very small choir, and a liturgist – no more. We have allowed a small group of volunteers to gather to record music for our webcasts under this ruling, but as of the date of publication, we will be converting to “remote only” recording in order to be as safe as possible.

## Limited Office Hours

Due to the stay-at-home orders, we are permitted to undertake only “essential” operations that are necessary to keep the church running. For that reason, our Office Administrator will only be in two days a week, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 am – 2 pm. This may change as the situation evolves. Check the website for the latest information. You may always contact Pastor John at the Church office at [pastor@trinitymoravian.org](mailto:pastor@trinitymoravian.org), or at his home office at [john@johnjackman.com](mailto:john@johnjackman.com) – or by phone at (336) 946-2040.

## Online Virtual Worship

We will be providing a rich and varied “virtual” worship online through our website, Facebook, and Youtube. Much of this will be pre-recorded in an effort to include as many of our people as possible. The worship service will webcast live at 11 am each Sunday. One our first virtual service on March 22, our streaming service was overwhelmed with traffic and crashed. The problems seem to be fixed, and we hope that this will be reliable in the future. Just go to our website [www.trinitymoravian.org](http://www.trinitymoravian.org) and click on the “Live Webcast” icon. If you experience “buffering” at that site, you can click on the links above the video to see the stream live on Facebook or Youtube. All of these will go live at the same time, 11 am on Sunday.



We will have downloadable worship materials, including hymns and liturgies, available. Please download these in advance (they will be available Saturday), and you can print them out on your home printer or view them on another laptop or tablet while watching the webcast.

## ZOOM Meetings

The congregation has subscribed to Zoom, a virtual meeting service that allows an online “meeting” of up to 100. We have conducted several board and committee meetings this way, and our Sunday School classes are also meeting together virtually through this service. Please contact Pastor John if you want to use the service for a circle or committee meeting.

*There has been some concern lately about “Zoom Bombers” crashing and disrupting Zoom meetings. The most common of these is when the Zoom meeting number/link was published publicly. In order to maintain security, Zoom meeting links will be sent only to verified member email addresses, and we ask that no one publish them on social media or anywhere else that others could find them.*

## New Online Member Directory

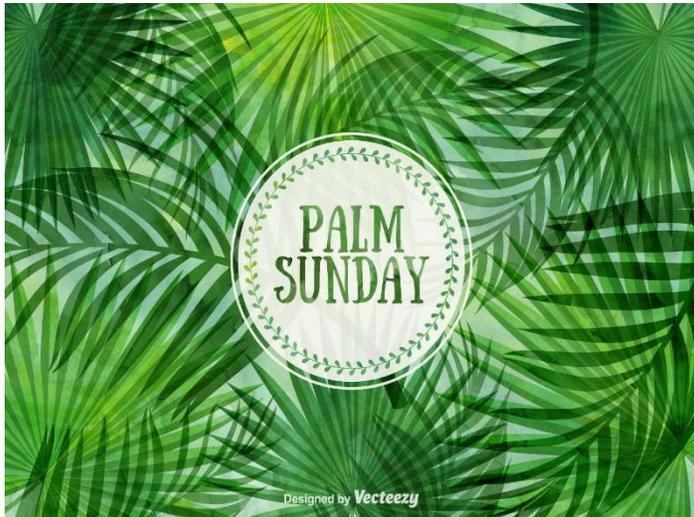
### Church Photo Directory



A number of our members have made good use of our online directory. Unfortunately, we were experiencing several issues with the software and the site itself, which was hosted on a secure cloud webserver. That site was turned off on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, now is the time when we need that directory to stay in touch and get folks’ latest number and email address! So we are in the process of launching a new secure online directory, which will be viewable only by members who are logged in with a password. As this is launched, you will receive an email from the directory asking you to log in and set your password. Please do this promptly, and take a moment to double-check your contact info and upload a picture of yourself! If you do not receive an email by mid-April, that means either we have no email address for you or we have an outdated one. Please contact the church office to get us your latest information.

## Moravian Stars for Unity!

Many people in the area have hung their Moravian Stars out again as a symbol of solidarity and unity in the current crisis. There's a star out at the church – and of course our stained glass star is always shining over the corner of Lomond and Sprague Streets! We encourage you to take part in this, and in the "Branches for Unity" for Palm Sunday – see below. Then take a picture of your star and your "palms" and post it in our Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/trinitymoravian/>.

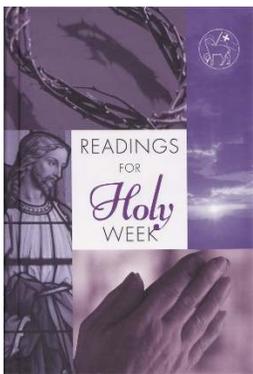


## HOLY WEEK

We will have a "virtual" Palm Sunday service. To take part, we encourage you to join in the suggestions below for children and families. Please prepare in advance on Saturday, April 4 – especially for the Children's Chat, which will be recorded on Saturday at 3:00 pm.

**Branches for Unity** – while we can't be together, waving emerald palms, we can still take part in Palm Sunday! The Scripture says that they "cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road." Tradition says that these were palms, but they probably were a variety of leafy branches. So take the kids and go out in the yard and find a leafy branch – from a shrub or tree – and cut a bit off and hang it on your door as a visible sign of taking part in the observance!

**Palm Sunday Children's Crafts** – Attached is a printable design to help children cut a "palm" from green construction paper – or if you don't have green construction paper, white paper colored with a crayon will do! This pattern is downloadable separately on our website and in the Facebook group. Children who plan to participate in the "Children's Chat" are encouraged to have these ready for the recording on Saturday, April 4 at 3:00 pm.



**Holy Week Readings:** While we cannot gather in person for our Palm Sunday Lovefeast, we will have virtual Holy Week Readings each night at 7:00 pm. Thanks to the Interprovincial Board of Communications, we will have a PDF version of the Holy Week Readings available for advance download – both on our website and in our Facebook group. Using recordings of the music and our local readers, we will experience each day in the week before Easter as usual.

**Maundy Thursday:** There has been much discussion among pastors with the PEC and the bishops about the celebration of Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday. The consensus is that this year, we will celebrate Holy Communion virtually by asking each participant to prepare their own elements – wine or grape juice, and bread or matzoh – at home, and then participate via web streaming. The consecration by the pastor will be received remotely in that way. So we ask you each to prepare at home to take part in this way.



**Cross Walk:** Obviously, there can be no physical Cross Walk this year, but we encourage you to go back and find your pictures of previous years and post them on our Facebook group, so that we can all share them.



**Grave Cleaning:** On Great Sabbath (the day before Easter) we will not have an organized cleaning/decoration of the graves. From Salem Congregation: SINCE THERE WILL NOT BE A PUBLIC ASSEMBLY IN GOD'S ACRE FOR EASTER, we know that people wish to do the traditional cleaning for their own family and loved ones' graves.

Please contact the office at 336-722-6504 or [office@salemcongregation.org](mailto:office@salemcongregation.org) to schedule a time to clean and decorate graves this year. Due to Covid-19 we will be trying to limit the number of people and where they may be in the graveyard at one time. We will allow individuals to come into the graveyard with their own supplies. A limited number of individual bottles of the recommended D/2 cleaner will be available if ordered in advance.

**Great Sabbath Service:** There will be no live Great Sabbath Service this year. Last years' recorded service will instead be available on the Home Church website at <https://www.homemoravian.org/index.php/live-broadcasts/>

**Easter Sunrise:** There will be no public gathering in Salem Square or God's Acre. The 248<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunrise Service will be observed by a small group in Home Moravian Church and the service will be live streamed at [www.moraviansunrise.org](http://www.moraviansunrise.org). Please stay safe at home and join us online at 6 am or tune it at WSJS AM 600kHz.



**Holy Hilarity Sunday:** Several members have asked about whether we will have Holy Hilarity Sunday, which we have celebrated the Sunday after Easter for a number of years. Pastor John is checking his funny bone and asking those of you who have heard good CLEAN jokes about the current situation, please send them in. Better yet, if you'd like to TELL said joke over a Zoom meeting, let him know! Humor is one way that God has given us to cope with stressful situations.

### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Rodney Reich	April	1	Joseph Dominguez	April	20
Patrick L. Russell	April	1	Jeannine Allen	April	21
Dena Moore	April	6	Lee Bridgers	April	21
Robin Gregg-Clarke	April	11	Lou Parrish	April	23
Kaitlin Moore	April	13	Danny Morgan	April	24
Jerry Jackson	April	16	Vicki Williams	April	25
Jill Reich	April	18	Angie Fisher	April	27
Buster Williams	April	19	Bruce Sherman	April	29