



TRINITY NEWS

For Family & Friends of Trinity Moravian Church

MAY 2020

Pandemic Edition

From the Pastor:

I hope this virtual newsletter finds you at home, well, and safe. In the past couple of months, everything in our world seems to have been overturned. Whatever your plans were at the beginning of March, they were postponed – or entirely cancelled – by the coronavirus. Church leaders, just like teachers and administrators in the school system, had to pivot on a dime and suddenly convert to doing everything online. I hope that you have participated in our virtual worship experiences, and that you will take part in some of the other programs we have coming soon.

This pandemic is undoubtedly the biggest worldwide event for decades. We are living history right now, history that will change the trajectory of the world and our community for years to come. Many people are consumed with fear and anxiety – fear of the virus, fear of the unknown, anxiety about financial uncertainty. They want to go back to a “normal” that no longer exists.

We are having to change our plans, change the way we do things, but our core mission stays the same. We are called to live out the mission of Christ, to share the good news and to build the Kingdom – essentially, to love one another. Instead of focusing on how inconvenient and difficult everything is (it is!), we should also be excited about exploring new and exciting ways we can minister. We are reaching many more people on the internet than we have in the past, and we are actively working to find new ways that we can include those folks in an expanded virtual ministry.

Please check our website and our Facebook frequently, that’s where we will post new information as things unfold. We are figuring out how to manage this crisis a day at a time! In the meantime, please stay home, stay safe, and stay well!

Blessings,
Pastor John

Local and State-Wide Stay at Home Orders

As you should be aware, there are still both local and state-wide “stay-at-home” orders in place, at least through most of May -- and effectively long after that for most of our members, who fall into one of the “vulnerable” categories. 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.

The state will probably enter “Phase 1” after May 8, allowing more businesses to operate and opening state parks. However, “Phase 1” is not very different in most issues. Meetings are still limited to ten; social distancing is required, and the wearing of masks is strongly encouraged. This phase will last two to three weeks, substantially through the end of May. If the metrics allow, we will then enter “Phase 2,” which will lift the general stay-at-home order and increase the number of people who can meet. However, people over 60 or who have some pre-existing medical condition that put them at greater risk are still encouraged to stay at home. Churches will be allowed to meet, with significantly reduced capacity. Our Worship Committee is hard at work to plan how this will look, and how we can involve and include the folks who must still stay at home. *Please check our website and Facebook group for the latest information!*

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, or at his home office at john@johnjackman.com – or by phone at (336) 946-2040.

Online Virtual Worship

We will continue to 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. Just go to our website www.trinitymoravian.org and click on the “Live Webcast” icon. If you experience “buffering” at that site, you can click the links above the video to see the stream live on Facebook Youtube. All of these will go live at the same time, 11 am on Sunday.



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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. This will allow you to participate fully in the worship.

ZOOM Meetings

The congregation has subscribed to Zoom, a virtual meeting service that allows an online “meeting” of up to 100. While this is a poor substitute for meeting in person, (and we are all missing that literal presence), it is way better than nothing, and it does allow us to see each other and catch up. The Board is meeting this way, as are a number of other groups.

- SUNDAY SCHOOL: The combined adult Sunday School classes meet every Sunday at 9:45. If you would like to participate in the Sunday School class and have not been receiving the link to join, please contact either Tripp May at trippmay@triad.rr.com or Gary Stilley at garystilley18@gmail.com to be added to the contact list.
- LOGOS has had one Zoom meeting where children and staff were invited. These will be held periodically. If you would like to be a part of the next one and did not receive login information, contact Pastor John at pastor@trinitymoravian.org or his home office at john@johnjackman.com.
- YOUNG ADULTS will be meeting this way.

Please contact Pastor John if you want to use the service for a circle or committee meeting.

Do you have a friend or relative that does not have access to the internet? Consider printing a hard copy of this newsletter and dropping it off for them. You can also let Pastor John know, and he can arrange to get them a DVD of the weekly services and a hard copy of the hymns and liturgy!

Church Photo Directory



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. Unfortunately, some unexpected technical issues have set us back but we hope to have it running in the next couple of weeks. 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.

So...What's Next?

The strange question every church is trying to answer is “What’s next?” The answer is extremely complex and involves many details that most people would not think of. There are many practical issues for cleaning and disinfection that must be tackled to keep everyone safe. The Worship Committee has met via Zoom to discuss ways to increase the effectiveness and reach of our online services, and to envision a “blended” worship that includes in-person worshippers and many worshippers at home. Some of the innovative ideas they are exploring include:



- Using an inexpensive FM transmitter so that medically vulnerable members could “drive in” and participate in live worship from the parking lot.
- Having some “at-home” worshippers able to greet “in-person” worshippers from projection screens.
- Including “at-home” worshippers actively in service – sharing, reading Scripture, etc.
- Seeing webcasting and live Facebook interaction as an integral part of worship, not an add-on.
- Alternate worship time in Fellowship Hall – Laurel Ridge or Evensong style worship, also webcast
- Informal fellowship time via Zoom Breakout rooms.

We’ll keep you posted as we know more and as we explore these various possibilities!

Your Financial Support

Your faithful financial support is crucial during this difficult time. Donations have fallen among all churches during the crisis. Yet we continue to have obligations, and our ministry must continue as we explore new ways to fulfill our calling during COVID-19. Many churches have stopped sending Provincial “fair share” in so the Southern Province has had a huge cash flow problem. We need to continue to support not only our ministry, but take care of our part in crucial provincial ministries. Your monthly or weekly check makes a gigantic difference!

Remember that you can easily give online by going to our website and clicking on the DONATE link:

<http://trinitymoravian.org/content/about-trinity/give/>

If you haven’t already done so, consider setting up a regular automated donation using your credit or debit card.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Dr. Walter Holder	May 4	Kayleigh Cline	May 18
Bonnie Russell	May 4	Abigail Jackman	May 19
Linda Shouse	May 8	Lauren Tripp	May 20
Richard Edwards	May 9	Alex Dominguez	May 21
Joe Little	May 9	Pat Foil	May 24
Cynthia Reavis	May 10	Amber Emerson Runge	May 27
Jack Clowers	May 11	Nancy Foster	May 29
April Brendle	May 12		