



Building Bridges of Caring, Compassion, and Civility

APRIL 2019 NEWSLETTER

The future is notoriously hard to predict. I have a large coffee-table book called *Looking Forward* that describes life in the 20th century as predicted in magazines between 1895 and 1905. Many of the predictions are quaint at best, some of them are funny, and most of them are dead wrong. The future has a way of surprising us, which makes predicting it difficult; because the future – by definition – hasn't happened yet!

Maybe that's why we tend to be more comfortable with the past than with the future. Churches cling to tradition because it's familiar; whereas the future is unknown. And yet God calls us to be open to new directions, new challenges, and new ways of living the Gospel. In the book of Isaiah, God says: "Don't brood over past history. Don't brood over the mistakes of the years gone by. I, the Lord God, am doing a new thing in your life. Can't you see it? Can't you perceive it? It is like a bud springing forth from the ground. It is like a small crocus poking its head through the dirt. I, the Lord God, am doing a new thing in your life. Can't you see it?"

"I am doing a new thing." That is a theme, a thread that winds its way through the whole Bible. God says, "I will make with you a new covenant. I will place in you a new heart. I will give you a new spirit. I will give you a new name. You will sing a new song. I will fill you with new wine." And in the New Testament, God surprises the world with a Messiah born in a stable, put to death on a cross, and raised on Easter. What could be more surprising than that? As the Apostle Paul puts it, "if anyone is in Christ Jesus, they are a new creation. The old has passed away; the new has come."

The God we worship is not an old man with a long white beard, as so often depicted in cartoons. Our God is not confined to the past, but God meets us as we move into a new future. And that means change! Now change is hard. And it's scary. But change is inevitable. God is at work in our world. God is at work in our community. God is at work in our church. Good things are happening. The search for a new pastor is under way, even as we explore new ways of living out our mission: Building bridges of compassion, caring and civility.

No one knows what tomorrow may bring. No one knows what God is creating in this place. And that tends to make people anxious. It's a little nerve-wracking, living between the past and the future, waiting to see what God is up to.

But one thing I know for certain. God is calling Joy in Christ – just as God called Abraham – to follow Him into an unknown future, and to receive each new day as a gift. That means learning to think in fresh ways. But this is what you were called for: to live by faith. Faith without hope in the future will be stuck in the past. But faith that tries to be "relevant" by forgetting the past has no roots. Trusting God brings the past alive, gives the present meaning, and the future hope.

Your mission as Joy in Christ is more than just holding on. God is calling you to remember, to celebrate, to give thanks for the history and tradition of this church; and then to move out into a new future – a future that belongs to God – to the God who says, "Behold, I make all things new."

Pr. Russ

Notes from the Worship & Parish Life meeting March 13, 2019

Present: Vicki Burke, Pat Gladbach, Audrey McNevin, Carol Porter, Candy Stone, Lee-Ann Trigler, Pastor Norris

Meeting began with an opening prayer and assignment of Lee-Ann as note taker

RECAP: Pastor will confirm the May 25th date for confirmation retreat

Confirmation is scheduled for June 9th

Good Friday: Noreen is checking into candles for candelabra

Swags: Vicki will place a purple swag on the outside cross. Carol and George will place the black swag for Good Friday

Easter Lilies: Pat will put in the order April 8th Jeff and Candy will place the plants

Bulletin insert: Candy will create the Easter flower dedication list

Spring Clean Up! April 13th Lee-Ann will set up list

Decorating for Easter Sunday: April 20th

Easter Brunch- Lee-Ann will get poster and sign-up sheet

Next Meeting April 10th at 4pm



Brief update from the March 17, 2019 Council Meeting

Present: Lisa Clairmont, Pat Gladbach, Audrey McNevin, Kathy Remes, Jeff Stone, Lee-Ann Trigler, Pastor Russ; Excused: Pam Borgeson, Vicki Burke

The February Council Retreat Meeting Minutes, Treasurer and Financial Secretary reports were unanimously approved.

The Council discussed an action plan from the conversation at the February Retreat around **civility and how do we model that as a group and congregation.** After some discussion, it was agreed that Pastor Russ would create a worship/sermon series around civility (3, 4, 5 weeks? – length to be determined) and that would be followed by discussion at coffee hour during those weeks. Pastor Russ and Lee-Ann will get together to ideate what that could look like and the timing for this and get back to the Council at its next meeting. A suggestion was made to pose a question each week in the Friday email which would provoke thought about civility. (What was your random act of kindness this week? Did you have a positive impact this week on someone? ...). These questions could also be a point of discussion at coffee hour. The idea is that discussing civility might remind us to be more civil in our daily lives.

The Council had agreed on the following **congregational mission projects** for 2019 and added some details to them during the meeting. The coordinators for each event will update the Council regarding progress at subsequent meetings:

Currently: Wednesday Lenten suppers and Worship open to the public – in process.

Our Mission: To build bridges of Caring, Compassion, and Civility

June: Luncheon to honor seniors (reminder that many parishioners are also involved with the Yard Sale in June), likely to be held at the Abington Senior Center. Lee-Ann and Jeri Screnci to coordinate with the congregation.

Summer: Backpacks for kids, involving school teachers. Kathy and Pat to coordinate with the congregation

November: Major food packaging event. Jeff and Pam to coordinate. The goal for 2019 is to package 250,000 meals (we packaged 102,000 meals last year). We are working on changing the location from the church to Abington High School and getting other local churches, social organizations, clubs and businesses involved. So far the Abington United Church of Christ, the Abington Baptist Church and the Abington High School have signed up to help organize and run this event.

December: Gift collection for families in need. Lisa and Audrey to coordinate.

Pastor Russ and Jeff have met and are continuing to meet with the Abington Clergy Association to discuss ways that the collective congregations of the community can work together 1, 2 or 3 times per year on community events for those in need in the community.

The Council next discussed the two candidates that they had interviewed for the upcoming pastoral vacancy and consensus remained that they would move forward with the candidacy of Pastor Tim Rogers for presentation to the congregation. Pastor Tim currently serves as the “Priest in Charge” at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Holbrook, in a part-time capacity. If contracted for a pastoral role at Joy in Christ, Pastor Tim would serve BOTH congregations. Of note for the congregation:

- Pastor Tim will preach on March 31st at Joy in Christ while Pastor Russ is away with the confirmands on a confirmation retreat at Camp Calumet. Tim will be around for coffee hour to meet parishioners.
- Pastor Tim’s background will be shared with the congregation via email, Sunday handouts on both 3/24 and 3/31 and via postings in several places at the church.
- Council members will reach out to parishioners via phone leading up to March 31st to encourage attendance and experience Pastor Tim’s worship leadership.

Audrey mentioned that due to the large amount of people who showed up for the Lenten Service, it was difficult to hear some people when they were speaking and she suggested the potential use of a microphone. It was the consensus of the group that putting a microphone in someone’s hand might limit people’s willingness to share. Jeff said that he would speak to both Pastor Russ and Pastor Dee from All Saints so that they could manage that during subsequent Lenten Services.

Next Meeting
Thursday, April 25th 6-8pm

save the dates:

March 31: Meet Pastor Tim Rogers

April 7th: Last day to place your Easter flower order

April 13th: Spring clean-up day

April 20th: Decorate for Easter Sunday

Our Mission: To build bridges of Caring, Compassion, and Civility

**We continue our Ecumenical Wednesdays
with All Saints' Episcopal Church.
Friends and guests invited.**

“Healing the Broken Heart”

Soup Supper at **5:30 p.m.**

Prayer and Conversation at **6:30 p.m.**

April 3rd: Grace for the “At Risk” Heart

April 10th: Life for the Desiring Heart



Palm Sunday – April 14th

Worship begins promptly at 10 a.m. with a procession around the outside of the building to commemorate the welcome Jesus received as he entered Jerusalem. This will be followed by a dramatic reading of the Passion according to Luke during worship, reminding us of the suffering and death that Jesus endured.

Maundy Thursday – April 18th

This day takes its name from the Latin word for commandment, as we celebrate the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples as he washed their feet and gave them a new commandment: Love one another, as I have loved you.



Good Friday – April 19th

We will gather in the darkening evening to hear the final words of Jesus from the cross, to grieve his death and to reflect on our participation in the sin from which he came to save us. Death will not have the last word, for it is through death that we are given new life. The service is called Tenebrae and begins at 7 p.m.



April 20th

Worship begins at 10 a.m. with the sounds of joyful song accompanied by organ and trumpet. Bring a bell to ring in the Alleluias! Join us for a potluck Easter brunch following worship.

Our Mission: To build bridges of Caring, Compassion, and Civility



APRIL

1st: Beverly Alexandre
 4th: Martha Ratliff
 9th: Oliver Hall
 11th: Kathy Remes
 25th: Mark Williamson
 29th: Joe Rogers

MAY

1st: Frank Turner
 2nd: Ryan Burke
 2nd: Theresa Sabol
 4th: Dennis Olson
 6th: Bill O'Hara
 10th: Mike Burke
 13th: Jacob Rogers
 23rd: Bob Clairmont
 26th: Dale Olson
 27th: Gail Hussey

SUNDAY DISCIPLES

DATE	ASSISTING MINISTER	READER	TECH SUPPORT	GRUSHER	WORSHIP SET-UP	COFFEE HOUR
MAR 31 ST	LEE-ANN TRIGLER	LISA CLAIRMONT	STEPHANIE BURKE	JERI SCRENCI	JEFF STONE	LEE-ANN TRIGLER & JOY ANN FRANEY
APR 7 TH	EMILY CLAIMONT	AIMEE REMES	JEFF STONE	JOY FRANEY	JERI SCRENCI	VICKI BURKE & STEPHANIE BURKE
APR 14 TH	PAT GLADBACH	JEFF STONE	LISA CLAIRMONT	JERI SCRENCI	LEE-ANN TRIGLER	CANDY STONE & LEE-ANN TRIGLER
APR 21 ST	LISA CLAIRMONT	JERI SCRENCI	LEE-ANN TRIGLER	JEFF STONE	JOY FRANEY	POT-LUCK EASTER BRUNCH
APR 28 TH	NOREEN DIONNE	LEE-ANN TRILGER	LEE-ANN TRIGLER	PAM BORGESON	PAM BORGESON	JOSH LEHR & GEORGE SULLIVAN

IT TAKES A VILLAGE:

March 31st – April 6th

Audrey calls Anita S; Anita B sends Frank a card; Ingrid calls Harold & Helen; Kathy calls Martha

April 7th – 13th

Pat calls Helen & Harold; Candy calls Martha; Lee-Ann calls Anita S; Vicki sends Frank a card

April 14th – 20th

Kathy calls Anita S; Audrey send Frank a card; Anita B calls Helen & Harold; Ingrid calls Ingrid

April 21st – 28th:

Vick calls Martha; Pat calls Anita S; Candy send Frank a card; Lee-Ann calls Helen & Harold



ELCA presiding bishop pastoral message on Christchurch mosque shootings

3/15/2019 12:55:00 PM

Dear Church,

Today we awoke to the devastating news of the mass shootings at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand. We join in mourning for the people who were killed and wounded, for their families, for the first responders and grief counselors, and for all whose lives have been shattered today. We know that God is present in the midst of their suffering.

We know that our own Muslim neighbors here in the U.S. are also experiencing grief and fear. Many will wonder whether it is safe to attend Friday prayers today. These are not the kinds of questions that any of us should have to ask ourselves as we seek to live out our religious commitments. Yet, devastatingly, this is also a reality that binds us together as people of faith. As I wrote last November in the wake of the Tree of Life shooting: “Hate-filled violence knows no bounds – whether a Sikh Temple in Oak Creek, a Christian church in Charleston, a Jewish synagogue in Pittsburgh” – and now these mosques in New Zealand.

Together with our ecumenical and inter-religious partners, we stand shoulder to shoulder in condemning hatred, bigotry, racism and violence whenever and wherever it occurs. We do so because all people are made in the image of God. Therefore, as an act of neighborly love, I urge you to reach out to your Muslim neighbors today and in the days to come to ask how you might offer solidarity and support – joining whenever possible with other ecumenical and inter-religious neighbors.

I leave you with the words of Psalm 16:1: “Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.” This is my prayer – for our Muslim neighbors, for the people of Christchurch, and for all who mourn and are afraid. May we see in this devastation the possibility to be Christ’s presence with our neighbors in this world – to be present in their suffering and to be partners in God’s justice and peace.

In peace,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop, ELCA

Our Mission: To build bridges of Caring, Compassion, and Civility



EASTER FLOWERS

Here’s a wonderful way to adorn Joy in Christ’s altar for Easter! Place a lily or tulip plant on the altar to glorify God. Plants may be dedicated in honor or memory of a loved one. After worship on Easter, take it home or leave it to share with one of our homebound members.

Just fill in the form below and return it in the offering plate on Sunday (or send it in to the office). **The deadline for ordering is April 7th.** The cost of each plant is \$10.00.

I/we wish to order (*enter the **number** of plants you wish to order*)

#_____Easter Lily #_____Tulip Plant

Your Name _____ phone # _____

To the Glory of God _____OR

In honor of _____OR

In memory of _____

Please indicate amount enclosed with your request: \$_____

Did you know.....

The magnificent white lily known as the Easter lily has long stood as a symbol of purity, hope, innocence and peace. Also called the Bermuda lily, the Trumpet lily, and Jacob’s Tears, the Easter lily is a biblical flower commonly associated with the resurrection of Christ.

In Christian tradition, the Easter lily signifies rebirth and a new beginning. It is said that beautiful white lilies sprang up in the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus wept in the last hours before he was betrayed by Judas. Another legend claims that the white lilies grew from the repentant tears shed by Eve upon her departure from Paradise.

The lily is mentioned frequently throughout the bible and serves today as a beautiful reminder of the significance of the Easter season. Easter lilies grace homes and churches each spring as a symbol of purity, joy, hope and life.

Tulips are seen as a symbol of perfect love, imagination, and wistfulness. Various colors of tulips often carry various meanings. Red tulips are often seen as representing perfect and irresistible love. Yellow tulips signify hopeless love, white tulips symbolize forgiveness, and purple tulips denote royalty and nobility.

Joy in Christ Lutheran Church
21 South Bedford Street, Abington, MA 02351
(781) 878-3394
jicchurch@outlook.com

Pr. Russ Norris is usually in the office on Wednesday and by appointment. It is always best to call first, as visits and meetings sometime alter the schedule. Pr. Norris is available at 774.487.8734(cell) or 508.534.9307 (home) or at rbnorrisjr@gmail.com

APRIL 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 7:00 p.m. YOGA GIRL SCOUTS TROOP 66027 4:00 -5:00 p.m.	2 6:00 p.m. TOPS	3 Soup, Sandwich & Worship 5:30 p.m.	4	5	6
7 FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT 10:00 a.m. WORSHIP	8 7:00 p.m. YOGA	9 6:00 p.m. TOPS	10 Worship & Parish Life 4:00 p.m. Soup, Sandwich & Worship 5:30 p.m.	11	12	
14 PALM SUNDAY 10:00 a.m. WORSHIP	15 PATRIOT'S DAY 7:00 p.m. YOGA	16 6:00 p.m. TOPS	17	18 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00 p.m. WORSHIP	19 GOOD FRIDAY 7:00 p.m. WORSHIP	 EASTER DECORATING
21 EASTER SUNDAY 10:00 a.m. WORSHIP	22 7:00 p.m. YOGA	23 6:00 p.m. TOPS	24	25 COUNCIL MEETING 6:00 p.m.	26	27
28 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER 10:00 a.m. WORSHIP	29 7:00 p.m. YOGA	30 6:00 p.m. TOPS				