

OCTOBER 2018



TRINITARIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

TCC FALL TRUMPET

## Pastor's Ponderings

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Dear friends,

I have heard it said that all religions have a special gift for the world. It's nice to think of the great faiths being part of a giant puzzle, each having its own shape, size and contribution to civilization and humanity. I can think of a few off the top of my head:

Islam – Praying anywhere under any circumstances five times a day is inspiring. I had a wonderful Muslim friend in Ohio who once suddenly disappeared in our conversation. I looked down to find her praying on my kitchen floor. It was surprising and moving...and I thought, *Is my floor clean?*

Buddhism – Meditation, doing no harm, and being in the moment; reincarnation and the law of cause and effect, or karma.

Judaism– Midrash, or making meaning of the stories in the Bible, social justice, and the freedom to question, the Ten Commandments

Christianity – The Trinity, the Welcome Table (Communion), Centering Prayer, the Great Commandment, Compassionate self-sacrifice, Service, the Prince of Peace

This barely scratches the surface, but it gives you an idea. When I attended an interfaith seminary in New York City oh so many years ago, it was in studying other faiths that I came to understand and love more deeply my own Christian faith. One of its gems that people under appreciate is Centering Prayer.

We are blessed to have a skilled and devoted Centering Prayer leader and practitioner in our midst. Week after week (Wednesdays @ 3pm), Gwen Trelle leads a small group of devoted ones in a period of silent prayer and relaxation, followed by readings from Scripture and sacred discussion where opinions and inquiries are honored and given great thought. It's a wonderful way to revive mid-week and gain more depth of understanding and connection with God and one another.

I invite you to come and try Centering Prayer this fall. It's possible that the beauty of our Christian faith will shine more brightly for you in the seasons to come. It's possible that the treasure found in the practice will be a blessing in all areas of your life. Light of Christ, Pastor Julie

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# A Letter from the Christian Education Director

Dear TCC family,

As most of you know in May Pastor Julie and I asked for prayers from our congregation for guidance concerning the future of Christian Education and how we as a congregation will move forward.

My life has been traveling a bit of a different path this year. In February I shifted my career from an educator in a classroom to an administrator in an office. When I made this decision to take this path I was unsure of where it would lead. After a few months getting acclimated I found I loved it! Unfortunately, I had a summer of uncertainty that led me to wonder where my path was going? I spent much of my time contemplating what was ahead for me and my family and I am grateful for all the support and love I received from family and friends. After much thought and prayer I have decided to leave the position of Christian Education Coordinator at TCC effective November 30, 2018.

It was not an easy decision as I have loved supporting the church as the Christian Ed Coordinator. It has been a pleasure spending time with the children and youth of our church over the past 8 years! I have loved working closely with Pastor Julie as we are often of one mind on Christian Education here at TCC. I have fond memories of Christmas Pageants, Easter celebrations, Riverside services, hikes and our visit to the Heifer farm. I think our first sleepover two years ago will top my list of favorite memories. Most of our families were in attendance and watching the children as they explored their church in a whole new way was a joyous experience! We have explored the Bible together and have grown in our faith together. My hope is that this foundation and the commitment of our families to grow in their faith will support these children and youth as they grow into adulthood.

We will continue with Sunday School on the 2nd and 3rd Sunday each month along with our Bible Dig on Tuesdays at 5:30pm through the end of November. I feel that with the support of volunteers and Pastor Julie's guidance we will be able to continue with these programs.

I will be working closely with Pastor Julie over the next few months to prepare for the future of Christian Education at our church. What does this mean? We are not quite sure yet, but with continued prayers it may just be a new door opening.

Peace,

*Jen Piescik*



Caption describing picture or graphic.

## Musings from Suzanne McGowan TCC Moderator

This fall, on October 28<sup>th</sup> to be exact, our congregation will take a vote to decide on becoming an Open & Affirming Church. We have been preparing for the past two years. During that time, we have held a number of events to educate ourselves on the meaning of O&A, to assure ourselves that we are united in agreement, that becoming an Open & Affirming church is right for TCC. We have had speakers and sermons and discussions: Rev. Peter Ives preached about his own pastoral challenge when he feared it might be necessary to leave a pastorate he loved if the congregation should be unwilling to welcome several gay and lesbian people who wished to attend; Ives returned to TCC several weeks later to act as a discussion resource for us; another time a lesbian married couple spoke to us from our pulpit about their lives and their personal experience finding a church and becoming members.

We hosted two showings of the movie *For the Bible Tells Me So*, a film by Daniel Karlake which premiered at the Sundance film festival in 2007. It's about 5 religious families whose children are gay. Karlake has produced films for PBS also about the difficulties faced by religious people trying to hold onto both their beliefs and their children. Such work has brought innumerable death threats to his inbox. On the other hand, one of the most moving messages he has received came from a 13 year old boy in Iowa who saw one of the PBS features. The message was only a few lines and read: "Last week I bought the gun. Yesterday I wrote the note. Last night I happened to see your show on PBS, and just knowing that someday, somewhere, I might be able to go back into a church with my head held high, I dropped the gun in the river. My Mom never has to know." "Getting that email really seared into my soul," Karlake said.

Here at TCC in the past few months we have conducted three straw polls asking for your opinions, your questions, and your concerns about becoming an O&A church. Interestingly enough, we've had unanimously positive responses, "Yes," "Go for it," "let's vote now--except for one person who wrote that s/he "didn't understand the question" and one other who misunderstood the poll, thinking it was about holding our worship services at 9:30 am during the summer.

So what does Open & Affirming mean? It means that lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender, and queer people (LGBTQ) will find out that they are welcome. We know that TCC welcomes ALL people. Right? – except sometimes ALL people don't know that they are welcome. Why not? Maybe because historically their folks have been discriminated against, i.e. people of color, people with disabilities; The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the ADA in 1975 started to address those issues and that work continues on. Now it's time for TCC to openly support LGBTQ rights. And indeed there is a moral case to be made for TCC to welcome members of the LGBTQ community into our congregation.

Because. We. Are. Christians. Not in spite of it.

*As Christians we believe we are made in God's image and that God loves ALL his people.*

On the next page, you will find a letter to Ruth Johnson, date 6/5/93, after her son Ed came out as a gay man. As you will read, this letter describes a similar experience from her neighbor and son.

The letter is a moving testimony to love.



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6/5/93

Dear Ruth --

Whoever would have thought that we would be sharing this aspect of our lives? I don't know the answer to that beyond the fact that I have always believed that everything that happens has its' reasons, and we have only to live through them to understand them fully.

I understand totally what you are feeling right now. One of the hardest things for a parent is letting go of our dreams we had for our children. The other (and sometimes more difficult) issue is wondering if our extended family and friends will accept and continue to love our child the way we will. In our society that is a very difficult question, often with painful answers. But whatever happens, how ever our friends and family react, we will grow. We will learn tolerance, acceptance, and the true meaning of love.

The fact that Ed has shared this very difficult part of himself with you is probably very much like a re-birth for him. For you, it is very, very special because you chose him, chose to make him yours, chose to love him as only a mother could. His feeling safe enough in that love to share who he truly is with you is a gift.. It is a gift to you of his acceptance of who he is.

Your world will change. Your perspective on issues of fairness, prejudice and acceptance of all people will be enhanced. As I told Matt on his birthday this year, whenever people tell me how luck Matt is to have me be so accepting of him, I correct them. I tell them that it is he who has taught me so much; it is me who is lucky to have him.

You and Ed are about to begin a new and deeper, more loving and trustful relationship. You will share your lives more fully and honestly, laugh together and cry together with deeper understanding, admiration and affection. You will both grow and love in ways you have never imagined possible.

There will be days that will be hard, people and public policies that will make you angry, but you will always be proud of who your son is. I am always here for you, just as I am sure you will be there for me.

Love to you,  
Lorna



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## What is a church member?

A church member is someone who loves and supports the church. A church member has stood up to declare that fact and has made a vow to live a life where Jesus is at the head. A church member comes and worships with the community whenever possible, although this varies greatly. A church member gives of his or her time, treasure and talent to continue the mission work of the church. What is the mission of the church? To heal the sick, feed and clothe the hungry and the naked, to visit those who are in prison, and to have all people know the saving love of God through Jesus Christ.

A more detailed description of Active, Inactive and Associate members can be found in our by-laws. See Marilyn if you do not have those.

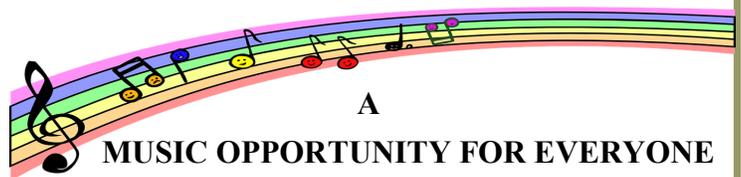
*Are you a church member? Are you up-to-date on your giving of time, talent and treasure?  
Would you like a visit or a conversation with the pastor or one of our deacons?  
Let Marilyn know or approach any one of us.*

## Family Confirmation Classes -- Oct. 30 & Nov. 25, 2 pm

On the last Sunday of September and October then starting again in January, we will be having a "family confirmation class" for anyone who wishes to "brush up" on the basics of our faith. Young people will have the opportunity to join the church in early summer, if they so choose. All in our community are welcome to attend. Class will start at 2 pm and go for about an hour. Join us!

### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/1	Kelly J. Steiner
3	Dave Johnson
4	Bill Llewelyn
4	Bill Wahlstrom
6	Deanna Baker
6	Sara Tower
16	Marion Scott
22	Chantelle Brigham- McMillan
22	Tim O'Brien
26	Genevieve Clark
28	Carol O'Brien
28	Carol Wood
31	Marilyn Gabriel



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### **MUSIC OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERYONE**

**Would you like to provide Special Music for a Worship Service? Do you play an instrument or do you sing? Or, do you crave to hear a special local musician you know of who will add some joyous music to our worship?**

**You can sponsor "Special Music" for a Sunday by talking with Patter Field - well in advance, and help to set things up or give a monetary donation to enable a musician to perform.**

**I can be reached at 413 522-0578 or by email:**

**[patterfield@gmail.com](mailto:patterfield@gmail.com).**

**I would love to hear from you!**

### **WE ARE EXTENDING 'BIG THANKS' TO BRUCE CROMACK**

who is retiring from being an usher after MANY years.  
Thank you Bruce for you commitment, your steadiness and your devotion.

Great job, now relax and have fun in church!!!



## CLASSIFIED ADS

**Wanted--Two volunteers** who love our church and like to work with numbers to be a Co-Assistant Treasurer (in training) along with Polly Billiel and to replace Polly in January when her term ends.

**Wanted:** Usher for Sunday mornings. Come in a little early, open doors, raise or lower shades, see to the doors and their locks, adjust lights, fans (if necessary). Help make the church safe and run smoothly. Talk to Bruce Cromack or Tom Shearer for further information.

**Wanted:** Trustee for the church. See to the upkeep and maintenance of our beautiful facility. Do some small tasks that help so much to keep things going and in good shape. Meet occasionally with other trustees to have fun and talk business.

### ¡Muchas gracias!

For your generous donations to the school children in Guinope, Honduras. We raised \$676 and more donations are arriving. Despite the violence in Honduras, these school children will have an opportunity to learn in quiet, dedicated classrooms.

Don't forget, a contribution makes a lovely Christmas or birthday gift in honor of a child, grandchild, or friend. Checks should be payable to TCC with 'Honduras' in the memo line.



On Sunday, October 21st, the Mission Committee asks for your generous donation for Neighbors In Need (NIN) Special Mission Offering. This UCC annual offering supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, including the Council for American Indian Ministries justice and advocacy efforts, and direct service projects funded by the UCC's justice and Witness Ministries.



### BOOK GROUP BREAKFAST & DISCUSSION

**Wednesday, November 7th,  
9 am in the Lounge.**

**“JUST MERCY”**

**by Bryan Stevenson**

**Please order your book on Amazon, purchase at a bookstore or borrow from Library.**

**We will meet one time only, with  
lively discussion led by our Moderator,**

**Sue McGowan**

**Bring something to share for breakfast.**

**DO YOU NEED TAMMY TO HELP YOU SET UP FOR A CHURCH EVENT?**

We have put together a **WORK ORDER REQUEST** form on orange paper. The forms are in the bottom Information Rack outside the Business Office. Return the completed for to this rack.

Below is a sample of the work order

Today's date \_\_\_\_\_ Date & Time needed \_\_\_\_\_

Space to use: Sanctuary, Lounge, Fellowship Hall, Sunday School rooms. (Circle one)

Contact person and phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Work Request details (Be specific: include time constraints, Use additional sheets)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date completed \_\_\_\_\_ by: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Use this form to request: set up screen/projector, extra chairs, tables, a/c in/out, replace lightbulbs, bring wreaths, Christmas trees, etc. from basement, records in or down from attic.

To reserve for an event, you will need to complete the usual form (green, lavender or yellow) for the Business Office to schedule and notify sexton and volunteers.

Thanks for your help in honoring this new form. Any problems using it, tell Marilyn at **busoff147@gmail.com** or call 413 498-5839.



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**TRINITARIAN CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH**

147 Main Street

Rev. Julie G. Olmsted, Pastor/Teacher:  
937 409-1375

Marilyn Gabriel, Adm. Asst., Business  
Office: 413-498-5839

Pastor e-mail: revjgo@verizon.net  
Office e-mail: busoff147@gmail.com

***We are on the Web:  
tccnorthfield.org***



## Back Page Story Headline

### CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Rev. Julie G. Olmsted, Pastor/Teacher  
Sue McGowan, Moderator  
Jen Piescik, Christian Ed Director  
Heather Tower, Choir Director  
Gwen Trelle & Kathy Wright,  
Co-Treasurers  
Polly Billiel Asst. to Treasurers  
Lynn Foster & Martha Morse  
Diaconate Co-Chairs  
Joanne McGee, Mission Cmte Chair  
Patter Field, Music Comm. Chair  
Chris Harris, Piano/Organ Accompanist  
Marion Scott, Clerk  
Ted Thornton, Webmaster

### DEACONS

Linda Leavis  
Martha Morse  
Ruth Johnson  
Marion Scott  
Bob Scott  
Ruth Cinsерuli  
Randy Foster  
Lynn Foster  
Gail Bedard  
Joe Bedard  
Pat Shearer  
TRUSTEES  
Kathy Wright, Chair  
Fred Billiel, Bob Scott  
Tammy Pelletier, Sexton

### CHURCH CABINET

Pastor  
Moderator  
Christian Education Director  
Clerk  
Treasurers & Asst. Treasurer  
Trustees, Chair  
Diaconate, Chair  
Music, Chair  
Stewardship, Chair  
Missions, Chair