



WE CAN MAKE IT TOGETHER

COPING AND CARING THROUGH COVID19



From The Pastor's Heart

My dear Trinity Family,

I want to begin by recalling these three words from Scripture: **The Lord is.** Three words that have the power to hold us through the ups and downs of life. Three words that are good on the mountain top and in the valley. Three words that we all need – even in the midst of a pandemic. The Psalmist used these three words well. Listen to his heart. He declared, “The Lord is....my Shepherd” (23:1), “The Lord ismy light and my salvation” (27:1) “The Lord is.....good” (100:5) “The Lord is....GOD!” (100:3)

Let us not forget that while we find ourselves in strange times, God has experience with stranger times. He is the Alpha and Omega and holds this Universe in his hands – even now. The LORD is!

Miss you!

I miss meeting with you, worshipping with you and serving physically alongside with you! I miss enjoying your sweet company. I pray every day for your well-being and for the safety and protection of your families and loved ones.

Our present crisis

“Mommy, will I die too?”, asked the four-year-old as she watched news about Coronavirus related illnesses and deaths. The little girl’s question gives voice to the fears of people across ages and cultures during this most exceptionally pain-filled time. It is with a very heavy heart that I write this pastoral letter to you. As I am writing to you, COVID-19 has infected more than 2.25 million people and killed at least 158,000 people worldwide, according to Johns Hopkins University. These are indeed unprecedented times. These are painful times. These are confounding times. We as a global community find our heads spinning, our hearts racing and

our knees shaking. We find ourselves at our wits end crying for mercy as a virus not seen by the naked human eye is devastating our nations and loved ones. With all our scientific advancement, we have been humbled and brought down on our knees begging for relief.

On the frontlines

In the midst of this pain, we see the resilience of the human spirit. We see people committed to battle COVID-19 on the front line as medical professionals, first responders and those going out in harm's way to care for and provide for those who are hurting. We thank each of you in our congregation who are out there on the front line in this battle. We pray very much for your daily protection and well-being. We salute you.

Closed churches and opened doors

Yes, churches around the world saved on electric and air conditioning bills! But we lost big time on meeting together. We have had our churches closed – but we do see new doors have opened. We are serving our communities globally with new vision and efforts. We are reaching out even when we have been forced to stay in. Many churches globally have been forced to go online with worship services. I have never had a wider assortment of services to choose from! When we were thinking, “The churches are closed”, God seems to say, “I am opening a lot of churches in homes”. Don't forget that the early Church of the New Testament met in the temple courts and in homes (Acts 2:46)

Not too “social” with all that social media?

We are living in strange times. Not too long ago, it looked like social media was everything to us. Today, while we are using its benefits to hold our heads above the swirling waters of quarantine, there seems to be a true ache in our hearts for more. Is there not a longing in our hearts for personal handshakes, person-to person conversations and for the warmth of true hugs? We seem to be missing that which is truly “social” in the midst of a social media explosion. We zoom into a room filled with colleagues on screens and return to our solitary selves– all in the click of a mouse.

Mixed emotions. Blessings amidst the pain. Pain amidst the blessings.

We find ourselves in a time and season of paradoxes. On the one hand we think about many who have fallen to the virus, on the other hand we think of those who have been spared. On the one hand we think of the shortage of essential supplies in the medical world, and on the other hand we hear of stories of exceptional provisions. On the one hand we hear of hearts that are completely depressed and down hearted, on the other we read and hear of the resilient human spirit that rises above the waves of this great equalizer. The rich and the poor, the educated and the illiterate, nobles and common people have all been subject to the destructive force of this research-defying, culture-defying, age-defying virus.

Though his words were penned in a different context, it is hard not to think of Charles Dickens and what he expressed in “The tale of two cities”. I quote, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.”

In our present context, it appears we have seen much of the worst, of the darkness and of despair. When we begin to see that the numbers of lives lost are a lot more than numbers, we begin to feel the pulse. We begin to feel the pain. Each life lost stands for dashed dreams, shattered hopes, unfulfilled aspirations and heartbroken family and friends.

As the people of God, we feel the pain of our world all the more. We earnestly pray for a cure. We pray for better days. We pray for our world to feel safe again.

Another virus that has stalked us through time and an opportunity

As we think of our present times, we recognize how we have experienced lockdowns and physical separation all on account of a tiny virus. Does this make you think of another virus that has infected the human soul and has caused a great separation between us and our Maker? The virus of sin.

I was recently invited to be one of the preachers at the Good Friday service at the Emmanuel Methodist Church in Chennai, India (my home church). The pastor had invited two other speakers to also be preachers in the online service. Both men are esteemed in my country as servants of the Lord. One of them, Dr. Ramesh Richards, who serves on the faculty of the Dallas Theological Seminary in Dallas, Texas made this observation, “Jesus tested positive, so that you would test negative when it came to the virus of sin”. What a powerful thought! He took our place. He bore our sins. He died our death. As we think about our world today, I urge you to not only think about physical death and loss but also about spiritual death and eternal loss. Did not the Lord Jesus say, “What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?” Mark 8:36

Has your heart lately been burdened for those who do not know the love of the Lord Jesus? This could be a season in which they are more open than ever before to hear our testimonies, receive our prayers and examine our faith. Yes, each of us can be special instruments to share God’s love at this time. May our hearts be moved to reach out with a phone call, a loving note, a text, email or a card. Let us not hesitate to write a check or support people in need during this difficult time. Apart from all we can do, we can all exercise the privilege of praying for those who are hurting.

Thank you!

I want to thank everyone of you in the Trinity family for your outstanding support through your prayers, encouragement and your giving towards the ministry of our Lord. I want to especially thank our excellent team of staff for their dedicated service at this time. We are grateful to our leadership team for their faithful support. I would like to thank Carol and Randy Everrtts, Harry Rodriguez, Carol Crossley and Starfish Ministries for their willingness to help us take practical help out to our community. The love boxes we are sharing, and the efforts in reaching out to homeless families will go a long way in making a difference. I want to thank our retired pastors, Rev. Peggy Spengler, Rev. Marcia Haller, Rev. Barbara Berg, Rev. Carl F. Peterson, Rev. Raymond Brooks, Rev. Rodney Miller, Rev. Richard Creamer and parish nurse Barbara Zimmerman for their faithfulness in sharing pastoral care through their encouraging telephone calls at this time. I am grateful to Donna Ratulowski for her efforts in leading our team of Sunday school teachers as they minister to our children at this time. I am grateful to Haley Warner for keeping in touch with our youth on a daily basis and for using technology effectively to encourage and nurture their faith. I want to thank Carol Wilson for her faithfulness with office and financial matters, Anne Matthews for her diligence with creating and mailing the bulletins, Jocelyn MacMinn for her gifts expressed through our website, our social media and the creation of Tidings, Harry Rodriguez for his work behind the scenes to maintain our facilities and to Norm Hass for his faithfulness in checking in on our security.

During this time, we as a church have been challenged to go out in a way that is different. Along with churches across the world, we have had to use an online presence to minister. We are blessed for the support we have received in this area, especially with the exceptional gifts of our Director of music Todd Davis and the gifts and graces of others in the congregation. Todd’s organ and piano playing are world class. His musical arrangements are a treat. Most of all, his gracious spirit and humble spirit are deeply appreciated. I have intentionally limited the involvement of individuals on site at the sanctuary for the videos and recordings for the online services in order to protect the well-being and safety of our people.

Thanks to each of you for your appreciation and encouragement for our efforts with the online services. Thanks for your calls, texts, cards and e-mails. I am deeply appreciative of your support. I am also happy to inform you that we have been receiving responses to the services from our local context and from individuals located in Singapore, Dubai, the UK, Japan and India. Let us continue to pray for this new aspect of our ministry. We are grateful to Nihal for his commitment to excellence in creating the videos for our online worship each week.

Prayers for you and gratitude to my family

We miss meeting together. We miss it very much. I go to the sanctuary from time to time and pause at each seat and pray for you, my dear church members. As I walk through the pews and stop and pray, God reminds me of each of you and of the precious gift we have in you. I pray you stay well and experience the presence of the Lord and his protection even at such a time as this.

Personally, I am seeking to spend more time in focusing on God's promises and in prayer. His word will not fail us. His love will not fail us. As the hymn writer, Cleland B. McAfee wrote, "There is a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God". I pray the same for you. I pray you will find times of deep and renewing communion with God during these days. I encourage you to spend more time in reading your Bible, memorizing scripture, praying intercessory prayers for others and seeking to align your life to the will and purpose of God. Even as we find ourselves in this wilderness, may we experience God alluring us and speaking tenderly to us (Hosea 2:14)

We also pause and thank God for family. My heart goes out to those of you who do not have the love, support or physical presence of family at a time like this. Miriam, Nihal and Nehara have been more than gracious to me during this time. It might sound strange, but it is true that they have seen less of me in the home as I have spent greater time in my study and parsonage office during this time. Doing the services online has demanded a lot more than I can write about. Miriam has graciously supported me as we have turned spaces in the parsonage into a home studio. I just need to remember to put everything back just as they were :) I am attaching a picture of our parsonage studio.

And oh! How we wish haircuts were part of essential services.

In his love,

Arun

MAY THEME

We can make it together!
Coping and caring
through COVID-19

May 3

Peaceful minds

Scripture: Philippians 4: 4-7

Scripture: Mark 4: 35-41

May 10

Mother's Day: The art of being mom

Scripture: Luke 2: 1-7

Scripture: John 19: 25-27

May 17

Helping hands

Scripture: Colossians 3: 12-17

Scripture: Mark 2:1-12

May 24

Willing feet

Scripture: Luke 9:57-62

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-9

May 31

Loving hearts

(Pentecost) Scripture: 1 John 4: 16-21

Scripture: Acts 2:42-47



thank you

Please send out our thanks for all the church prayers, texts, and email messages while Gary was ill. Your prayers brought us through this flu and he is on the road to recovery. God, we thank you for such a loving church family.

Gary & Vicky Forman



Harry Rodriguez and his granddaughter ready to hand out Love Boxes.

THANK YOU to all who have contributed to Starfish Ministries and have held this ministry in prayer.

We've been busy this past month. We've delivered 4 Love boxes each week, lovingly prepared by Carol Everetts, to homeless, homebound and in dire straights people. We've provided food and clothing and lodging for a family of 3. They are living in a motel in New Cumberland. The gentleman works at McDonalds but is not getting enough hours to help get them into a more secure home. COVID 19 is not helping. They are a Christian family trying to end their stint of homelessness so please pray for them. And we've collected and contributed to Downtown Daily Bread with their request for bottled water, sliced bread and snacks. Each day they prepare bagged meals for the homeless.

God is good and we continue to believe and pray that this ministry is working for our friends on the street.

Thank you all for your blessings.

A NOTE FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

“Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices...”

In the absence of choir rehearsals, Sunday morning worship, music, and the effects of Covid-19, these times may challenge us to sing. The hymn of praise, “Now Thank We All Our God” was written by Martin Rinkart during a time of famine, siege, disease, and isolation. In the midst of fears, he encouraged his followers, and continues to encourage us, with this prayer, “Keep us in your grace, and guide us when perplexed, free us from all harm in this world and the next.”

In these anxious times, we cannot forget the gift of singing. The church is called to sing. The psalmists tell us to sing. Singing is our voice to raise our joys and sorrows in every situation, to bid our anxious fears subside, and never to forget the words of Psalm 46, “God is Our Refuge and Strength, a very present help in trouble...”

To God be the glory,
Todd



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER 2020

Due to the Coronavirus social distancing, National Day of Prayer will be held virtually. Our world needs prayer!

Please be a part of the Trinity 24 Hour Prayer Vigil, praying in your home for one-half hour. The Prayer Vigil sign-up and a prayer guide prepared by the National Day of Prayer Coalition will be available on Trinity's website.

Start now to earnestly pray for our Nation, the pandemic, our economy, and our return to God who holds all these things in His hands.

Trinity 24 Hour Prayer Vigil

Wednesday, May 6th beginning at 7 PM
concluding Thursday, May 7th at 7 PM

New Cumberland Prayer Service

May 7th from 7-8 PM

Streaming on New Cumberland's FB page:
<https://www.facebook.com/newcumberlandpa/>

National Observance Live Broadcast

May 7th from 8-10 PM

Streaming on National Day of Prayer website:
<https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org>

PSALM 91 MEMORIZATION CHALLENGE

Would you commit to memorizing the words of Psalm 91? This Psalm is filled with the promises of God's protection over us. Learn a verse a day, or two or three. Learn a verse a week, or two or three. It will help you live better through your days and sleep better through your nights. Let God's Word dwell in your heart through faith. It will bring you security and success (Joshua 1: 8)

STOP & PRAY TIMES AT 8.30 PM

Please continue to join us every night by praying wherever you are for at least 5 mins. A heart that is broken by the pain of this world can be a powerful instrument in the hand of God. Broken prayers can heal the world!



MAY PRAYER CHALLENGE

Every time you see or hear of a COVID-19 mention, would you pray for the loved ones and families who have lost loved ones. At the time of this writing, nearly 165,000 people who have lost their lives.

Pray for healthcare professionals and first responders - and those in authority who make important decisions. Let us pray for researchers working to find a cure for COVID-19.



LOVE THE WORD.
LEARN THE WORD.
LIVE THE WORD.

YOUR 40 DAYS IN THE WORD CHALLENGE SCRIPTURE VERSE BEE

Do you remember the Old Fashion Spelling Bees we had in our schools? Well Rick Warren is challenging us to memorize scripture. On page 78 of your workbook he gives you the Benefits of memorizing scripture and how to begin your memorization. Your answer key to his teaching is on page 199.

Here's the challenge! While we are home bound; Pastor Rick, Pastor Arun and I are challenging you to memorize the "20 Verses Every Believer Needs to Memorize" on page 114. They are also printed out on index cards beginning on page 115; you can cut them out and carry them with you when you walk or are moving around your house.

If you have been praying in agreement with Pastor Arun, you will realize that he quotes scripture more than once every time he prays. This is because He knows the promises of God in the scripture and ask God for them in pray. When you pray like this, you are reminding God of that particular scripture that He promised you in His Word. And, if we ask according to His Will, we will receive our request. As you store up God's promise in your heart, the Holy Spirit will bring them to remembrances as you pray. Beginning with these 20 verses hidden in your heart, you will be preparing yourself to recall them when you are praying.

Here's how we'll do this. When we get back to church, we'll have a special event called the "Scripture Bee Challenge". We'll have a special meal together and then begin the Scripture Bee which will be divided into two sections for the event:

1. Each 40 Days in the Word table will be a team, i.e. 4 Tables in St. John's room will be 4 separate teams, the Conference Room Team, the Young Adult Team, the Fellowship Hall team and the Tuesday night Eat & Chew Team. We'll play against each team until we get one team that wins.
2. We will also have individuals playing against each other. The winning Table & the winning individual will each receive a prize. Extra points will be given for those who go beyond the "20 Verses Every Believer Needs to Memorize". The Bee will go on until we have our winners. So, let's see how much scripture you can hid in your heart. Our judges will be Pastor Arun & Pastor Carl.

So, call the folks at your table and begin memorizing. If you would like to be part and do not have a book, please email or call the church and we will send you a copy of the pages you need. Everyone is welcome! Put it on your Facebook page and share this challenge with your neighbors and friends that we may all fall more deeply in love with the author of this love letter to us. God has given us a purpose such as this for a time such as this one we are living in; a time of refreshment that we might spend this time with our Lord. Let us use this precious time wisely.

In His Word,
Pastor Peggy

Can you memorize 20 Bible Verses?

TRINITY YOUTH HIGHLIGHTS

by Haley Warner

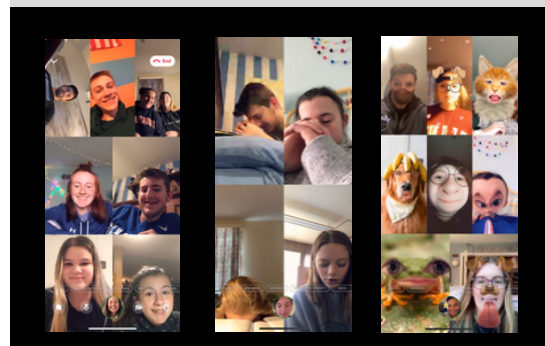
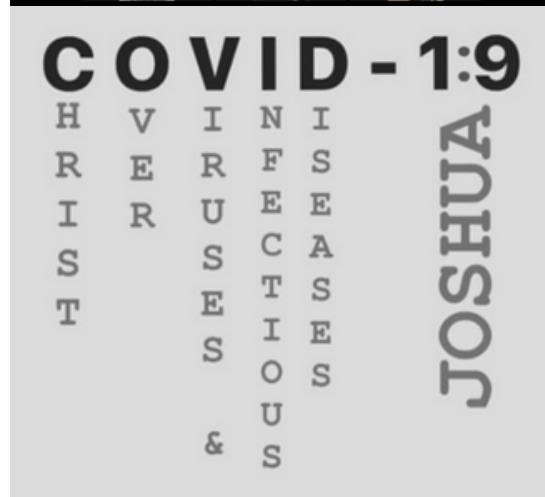
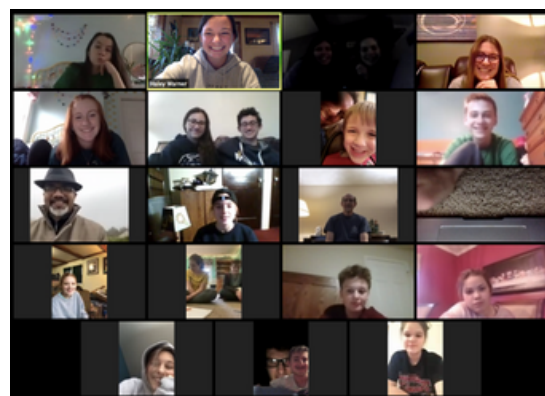
How Have Trinity Youth Stayed Connected to God & Each Other in the Midst of COVID-19?

Although we so miss being together physically, Trinity Youth have been adjusting to life at home and have been staying connected with God and each other now more than ever! From daily video chat devotionals to virtual youth groups, the youth have been finding new ways to worship God, connect with others, and share encouragement and hope with the world. We have been challenged with what it looks like to be the Church, to be the hands and feet of Christ, and to share our faith in the midst of home quarantines. From creating encouraging sidewalk chalk art for the neighborhood, finding unique ways to serve their families at home, sharing scripture on social media, having deeper faith conversations with friends, or calling distant family members, Trinity Youth have been learning how the Church is not a building or limited to Sunday morning worship or youth group gatherings, but how we are the Church and are called to live out our faith every day in the smallest and biggest ways!

TRINITY YOUTH ZOOMO
Created by: Rylee Sorrells

Z	O	O	M	O
Completed a Puzzle	Learned a new Instrument	Colored /Painted	Played Games (Sports, Board games, etc)	Went for a Walk/Run
HELPED NEIGHBOR /ELDERLY (ANY SERVICE)	Binged Watched Movies/ Shows	Started a Journal (Writing of some sort)	Built Lego Set	Learned a new Language
Looked at Old Pictures	Baked/Cooked	Reflect on Past Year	Read a Book	Did Activities With Family (People you are Quarantined with)
Yardwork	Cleaned/ Rearranged Room	Made a TikTok	LEARNED SOMETHING NEW	Ate Something New
Made Crafts	Read a book of the Bible	Worked out /Meditated (Dancing, yoga, etc)	Contacted Family/Friends	Slept in/Stayed up

What have you been up to at home?
See if you can get "Zoomo" on this homemade Bingo sheet created by youth Rylee Sorrells!



Celebrating Easter Sunday Virtually

Easter Sunday and Holy Week was very different for everyone this year. We missed gathering to worship together and our family celebrations, and although our circumstances were different, the Easter message and miracle always remain the same! Trinity Youth still found ways to worship, connect, and praise Jesus this Easter!

What does Easter mean to Trinity Youth?

“Jesus has risen” – Evan R.

“Jesus dies for our sins so we can continue to live with a clean slate” – Dacey M.

“To me, it means rebirth/renewal, that Jesus has risen and we basically have a clean slate with God.” – Ben S.

“Victory or triumph... like winning the most important thing ever to you but like 9876543210 times better” – Owen R.

“It’s the time of victory and Jesus defeating death” – Gavin & Ava H.

“Jesus has risen and we are set free and are clean from all sins” – Aleah M.

“Easter means a fresh start. It’s the ultimate reminder that Jesus dies for our sins so that we could be forgiven and free and it’s a time to be so grateful.” -Emily W.

“His is risen!! Our sins are gone and nothing, not even death can stop Jesus.” – Amanda V.

“Celebrating with our family God’s love and the sacrifice Jesus made for us.” – Kaity & Andrew W.

“Eternal life” – Rylee S.

“To celebrate with our family about Jesus coming back to life and we get to celebrate it with everyone we love. He conquered death and Satan, and anyone else who thought they could defeat Him.” – Jeanne C.



SECOND HAND SALE POSTPONED

The Second Hand Sale has been postponed from May 1-3 to September 1-3. We know many of you have been busy during quarantine cleaning out closets, basements and attics. We would love if you could save some items for the sale. Donations will be accepted the week of August 24th.

YOUR TRINITY FAMILY IS HERE FOR YOU!

During this season when our financial resources and reserves can be challenged, we want to be there for one another as a church family. Please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Arun (Cell phone 717-829-6162 or e-mail : pastor@trinityumnc.com) or one of our retired pastors to share if you have a financial need. We will be happy to respond as best as we can while keeping your identity in confidence. Thanks to those of you who have spontaneously and generously contributed to this cause.

SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS

The Uber’s son-in-law and daughter are stationed at Ft. Gordon in Georgia. He is commander of the young troops who come for basic training or for further training. There are concerns about these young troops that are being quarantined 2-4 in a room, with little outside interaction. Depression and occasional suicide is not uncommon for these young people. If anyone would like to send a card, picture or any well wishes you can send them through their daughter, who is heading up the support. Please contact Jim or Marsha Uber for her address. May we bless these troops that are doing so much to protect us.

UPDATE FROM STARFISH MINISTRIES

In the midst of COVID-19, Starfish Ministries continues to provide for our friends on the street. Due to shelters now being closed we have provided 6 tents to those in need. We have also helped one family of three move into a motel. The father has obtained a job and we will be looking for a more permanent situation for them. (Their little girl is just 4 years old) Another homeless family from the WSSD has recently moved into permanent housing in Harrisburg. Starfish is helping them with food. And Downtown Daily Bread continues to serve bagged lunches each day. They have requested water bottles, sliced bread and individually wrapped snacks. Starfish will be placing an order to provide some of these items of need to be delivered to them.

If you wish to make any cash donations, you may do so by texting 1-844-622-1977 for Text to Give; or through Starfish Ministries Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/starfishministries.harrisburg/ OR send a check made payable to Starfish Ministries, c/o Carol Crossley, 89 Broadwell Ln., Mechanicsburg PA 17055. You may also give through Trinity UMC who continues to support us.



Tune in each week to listen to a short message from God's Word. On our website go to Resources > Audio Messages and click the "Safe & Sound" series to listen to each week's message. Share the link with friends and family beyond Trinity. Just one link you share, can touch a life with God's love.



Join us weekly on Tuesdays from 8:00 - 8:30 PM
for a time of prayer on Facebook Live.

CHILDREN'S SUMMER PROGRAMS UPDATE

In view of COVID-19 and guidelines of care, we are not planning Vacation Bible School or Summer in the SONshine on location at Trinity this summer. We are working on online possibilities. Please await further announcements.

Our priority as a church is the well-being and safety of each of our children and also our adult volunteers. We are certainly keen to help our children in their faith-walk especially through the season. We are trying our best to see how we can keep a personal touch through this season of online communication and connection.

ADVENTURES IN ODYSSEY

Great stories for kids and those who are older too! This site has some amazing audio online free stories from "Adventures in Odyssey!" This is a program from the ministry of "Focus on the Family". Hope you enjoy them.

<https://www.focusonthefamily.com/adventures-in-odyssey/>

SECRET SISTER

Secret Sister program is going strong with 37 precious Sisters. Each woman is praying for her Sister everyday. You can be sending cards occasionally to your Sister letting her know that she is in your thoughts and prayers. God bless you for being part of this program. Any questions or concerns please call Vicky at 717-623-6568.



Trinity United Methodist Church

Susquehanna Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

415 Bridge Street
New Cumberland, PA 17070
717-774-7146
www.trinityumnc.com

Sunday Worship Services

8:15 AM and 10:45 AM

Sunday School Classes

For all ages at 9:30 AM



Trinity UMNC

Dated Material

**FORWARDING SERVICE
REQUESTED**



The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world

May
2020



Please submit
articles for the
JUNE 2020
TRINITY TIDINGS
by May 15th

LOVE IN ACTION BY OUR HELPING HANDS

We have initiated a distribution of love boxes containing a meal for a small family and other food items. 20 boxes are provided every week: for anyone from the community and/or our Trinity family on Thursdays. We have had an excellent response with all 20 boxes being pre-booked each week. We look forward to continue to serve our community with these



offerings of love. Boxes of food will be distributed on May 7, May 21, June 4 and June 18. We are using resources from our share and care fund to support this ministry. For more information, please contact Carol Evertts.